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Japan

Further Reportage on, Reaction to Minesweepers

Defense Agency Gives Details

OW2404160691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1533 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—The Defense Agency Wednesday announced four minesweepers and support ships of the Maritime Self-Defense Force [MSDF] will rendezvous off Amami Island, in Kyushu, Monday to sail for the Persian Gulf.

The agency named a 550-man task force the "Persian Gulf Minesweeper Group" and appointed Captain Taosa Ochiai, commander of the Kure-based Minesweeper Group 1, its chief, defense officials said. The ships are the first Japanese forces to undertake a non-training mission overseas since World War II.

The 2,000-ton minesweeper support ship Hayase, with a crew of 180 officers and sailors from the MSDF base in Kure, Hiroshima Prefecture, will lead the task force, the officials said.

The minesweepers are the Yurishima from the MSDF base at Sasebo in Nagasaki Prefecture, the Hikoshima from Kure, and the Awashima and Sakushima from Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture. They range from 450 to 490 tons in size and each has a crew of 45.

The 8,150-ton supply ship Tokiwa from Yokosuka with its crew of 140 will fill out the mission, the officials said.

The four minesweepers and two support ships will leave their home ports Friday and will join off Amami Island, Kagoshima Prefecture, in southern Japan Monday, the officials said.

The group will make port calls in the Philippines, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan on its 13,000-kilometer journey to the Gulf. The voyage is expected to take about 30 days, the officials said.

The Japanese group is to be deployed about six months in the Gulf, the officials said.

The officials said each ship of the group carries arms, including 20-mm machine guns, 3-inch cannon, and other small arms.

To assist in the mission, the task force is being equipped with the latest communications and navigation technology including equipment for Inmarsat, the international maritime satellite, and the U.S. Defense Department's global positioning system.

Kaifu Announces Dispatch

OW2404155891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1529 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, repeating that the deployment of minesweepers to the Persian Gulf does not contravene the Constitution or the Self Defense Forces Law, announced Wednesday that the vessels will leave Japan for the Gulf on Saturday.

Kaifu told reporters after obtaining a cabinet approval at its extraordinary session that four minesweepers, a support ship, and a supply ship are to leave Japanese ports for the Gulf. The voyage is expected to take about a month.

The government's decision marks the first nontraining dispatch of Japanese military vessels overseas since the end of World War II.

Kaifu said the decision was made to secure the safety of routes for Japanese tankers and other vessels in the Gulf.

The mission is also part of Japan's contribution to helping rebuild nations damaged during the Persian Gulf war, Kaifu said.

The prime minister stressed the deployment does not violate the war-renouncing Constitution, saying the mission is not aimed at attacking any nations.

He said the United Nations declared the end of the Gulf war on April 12, and the Self-Defense Forces Law allows military vessels to clear mines during peacetime.

Since World War II, the Maritime Self-Defense Force has disposed of about 7,000 mines placed by the U.S. and Japanese Navies during that war around the Japanese archipelago.

Kaifu did not clarify whether the Japanese vessels will cooperate with minesweepers of the United States, Germany, Britain, Saudi Arabia, and other countries.

Japan does not intend to ignore the Constitution when sending naval ships overseas, the prime minister said.

He said there must be a division between wartime and peacetime in sending military vessels abroad, adding that former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's government did not send minesweepers to the Gulf during the 1980-1988 Iraq-Iran war.

Quoting a government statement, Kaifu said Japan will adhere to the Constitution's rejection of using armed force as a means of settling of international disputes.

The statement, released by the government prior to the press conference, stresses the deployment as a personnel contribution to international society.

The prime minister said Japan had informed East Asian countries—who were invaded and occupied by the Japanese military before and during World War II—of the deployment of minesweepers.

Most of those countries expressed a favorable attitude to the mission, Kaifu said.

He also reported Japan is considering ways of contributing to U.N. peacekeeping operations on the basis of an agreement between the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and two opposition parties.

In a meeting of party leaders last November, the LDP, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party agreed to set up a body—which excludes the Self-Defense Forces—to participate in U.N. peacekeeping efforts.

On Japan's aid to Kurdish refugees stranded on the Turkish and Iranian borders with Iraq, Kaifu said the government has decided to extend 100 million dollars in aid.

He called on doctors to fly to Turkey and Iran to help Kurdish refugees, who are suffering from a food shortage, malnutrition, and poor health.

The refugees fled from reported persecution by Iraqi Government forces who quelled a revolt by Kurdish rebels that erupted after the Gulf war.

Kaifu Gives News Conference

OW2504041391 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1203 GMT 24 Apr 91

[News conference by Prime Minister Kaifu with reporters at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo—live]

[Text] [Dean of the press corps] Mr. Prime Minister, you had tough talks with Soviet President Gorbachev, and now you have made a difficult decision concerning the dispatch of minesweepers. On behalf of the cabinet press corps, I, as dean of the press corps, would like to ask you five questions. Then we will take questions by individual reporters.

Mr. Prime Minister, will you first of all please explain in about five minutes your basic thinking on the dispatch of the minesweepers in general and the motive for the dispatch?

[Kaifu] At the meetings of the National Security Council and cabinet earlier, we decided to send the minesweepers. On this occasion, I would like to also discuss measures for aid to the Kurdish people and measures for contributing to the post-war Gulf efforts.

The crisis in the Gulf started with Iraqi aggression against Kuwait on 2 August, but peace was restored in April when the United Nations formally adopted a cease-fire.

In the Gulf, however, there are reportedly some 1,200 mines floating around. I think that because the oil routes are important to Japan and the world is exposed to the risk of the mines, we cannot ignore the problem, but instead need to secure safe navigation through the area.

It is also very important that the mines be cleared so that war- damaged nations may be restored. Our nation is importing a considerable amount of crude oil from this area, which is indispensable for our nation's survival and for maintaining our lives. From the standpoint of defending the life of the nation, I decided that securing safe navigation is essential.

As such, the government decided at the meeting of the National Security Council that the operation to dispose of mines can be performed based on Article 99 of the Self-Defense Forces Law. This operation does not involve dispatching troops overseas, which is prohibited under the Constitution. First, a cease-fire has taken place and peace has returned to the area; second, this is aimed at securing the safe navigation of our country's vessels by eliminating mines believed to have been abandoned in the sea—this is not for the purpose of using force. Therefore, dispatching minesweepers to the Gulf does not go against the prohibition in the Constitution of dispatching troops overseas.

As far as the government is concerned, however, and as was clearly declared in the joint statement [as heard], there has been no change in the policy toward maintaining the ideally peaceful nation, forever renouncing war as a sovereign right of a nation and using force or the threat of force as a means of settling international disputes—after a deep reflection on history, we have pledged ourselves to these ideals.

I understand that our nation, called on by the international community to perform important responsibilities, should not make only material and financial assistance but also personnel assistance. This time, our action is intended as a contribution of personnel with the peaceful and humanitarian purpose of securing the safe navigation for vessels and to help war-damaged nations in their recovery efforts. I would like to have your understanding on this as well.

I would like to add on this occasion that, aside from the personnel contribution or financial assistance with which you are already familiar, we have decided to send government officials to the Armistice Supervisory Commission, and we are getting ready to dispatch specialists to a newly created UN special committee to be charged with destroying weapons of mass destruction possessed by Iraq.

In addition, we will send specialists on a mission to the WHO as part of our efforts to help Kuwait. We are also conducting operations to remove crude oil discharged into the Gulf by sending in 25 technicians and 30 machines called oil-skimmers. We also have a 14-member survey team to see what we can do with oil

fields on fire, and 12 technical personnel for the operation of protecting desalination plants.

Regarding measures on Kurdish refugees, High Commissioner Ogata arrived here from the refugee site yesterday and briefed me on the situation of the Kurdish people. She called for the positive cooperation of Japan, noting the very difficult position of the people. To this day Japan has sent emergency aid goods and other goods. A medical team of 18 members has been sent in two groups. Upon hearing from Commissioner Ogata that we should make a contribution of up to $100 million, I relayed this wish to government offices, and the offices a little earlier did decide on the aid of $100 million for this purpose.

I would like to have your understanding as well as cooperation concerning medical teams and technical personnel. Japan's contributions of personnel are still small when compared to the contributions of other nations. I would like to take this opportunity ask medical personnel and technical personnel—whether they work in the oil fields or desalination plants—to volunteer their services and to join in the international cooperation.

[Dean of the press corps] You did touch on this question briefly. Your judgment is that this dispatch is possible within the framework of the existing law. Can you explain to us upon what basis you arrived at that judgment?

[Kaifu] Well, there were discussions in the Diet in this regard at the time of the Nakasone cabinet in 1987, and there have been replies submitted by the cabinet to the Diet members and speaker. It was noted on these occasions that the Constitution makes it clear that Japan cannot send troops overseas—into the territories, sea or air space of other nations—exercising the threat or use of force. The Constitution makes it clear that the troops cannot be dispatched overseas; but the action this time is one that comes after the UN resolution on a cease-fire has taken effect and peace has been completely restored. The dispatch in this case is not into an area of conflict, nor is it one that accompanies the use of force. Hence, there is no constitutional problem.

Besides, there have been questions as to whether the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] only existed for the purpose of defensive missions and whether only Self-Defense Forces with defensive missions could be sent overseas. I answered in a written reply and verbally responded to such questions at the Diet yesterday, and the day before yesterday. Article 3 of the Self-Defense Forces Law says its primary mission is to defend the country—or to defend the lives and property of people when the country comes under attack. In addition to that, the primary mission given in Article 3, the Maritime Self-Defense Force under Article 99 of the law has the right to recover and dispose of mines at sea. And, in Article 100, there are further provisions on various non-primary missions; for instance, support on Antarctic survey missions or in support of athletic games. Various other activities are noted there.

Provisions about the primary mission of the Self-Defense Forces are in Article 3, but the provisions about securing safe navigation for vessels by clearing mines in the open sea are in a different article. They are not directly related to each other. Consequently, I came to the judgment that the dispatch is possible within the restrictions of the Constitution and also under the rights stated in Article 99 of the Self-Defense Forces Law. That point was also made clear in a reply to the Diet in 1987 by the then government.

[Dean of the press corps] Opposition parties have pointed out in Diet deliberations or ruling and opposition party heads' meetings, the possibility that this could be the start of Self-Defense Force troops being dispatched one after another. They are calling for a brake to be put on that. What is your comment on such views?

[Kaifu] I do not think that we have to worry about the possibility of them being dispatched one after another. A verbal explanation was insufficient, so we clearly wrote it down in the fourth paragraph of the government statement. Let me reiterate once again. We have to make a clear distinction between wartime and peacetime. A clear limitation is stated here, saying that this is a peacetime operation for the removal of mines, which are believed to have been left in the sea, in order to secure the safe passage of Japanese ships. Moreover, as a political decision, we have clearly written down that we will not change our idea of being a peaceful nation, which is based on deep self-examination of our history. Therefore, I can assure you that troops will not be dispatched one after another in the wake of the dispatch of the minesweepers. Please, do not feel apprehensive.

[Dean of the press corps] Not only Japan, but also various Asian nations including China, are worried that this is the first step toward the dispatch of troops abroad. What is your comment on this?

[Kaifu] The dispatch of troops abroad means sending soldiers for the purpose of military threat or use of military force. However, we have clearly explained that this is not a dispatch of troops abroad. At the same time, the region is an important and major route for the transportation of crude oil which is indispensable to the countries of the world. Japan alone is buying about 20 percent of the crude oil exported from this region. The rest is exported to other countries. Thus, it is necessary to secure the safety of this important supply route for the livelihood of the Japanese people. I also think that it is a demand of international society as well. At the same time, it is an extremely necessary element for rehabilitation of those nations which suffered damages. We will sincerely explain this position and our reasons.

It is not a dispatch with the purpose of using military power or a call to arms by any means. I do not know who he was, but a reporter pointed out a little while ago as I

was walking down the corridor that some people were apprehensive about the possibility that even cruisers may be dispatched next. I think this anxiety is a bit excessive. This time, minesweepers and a mother ship will be dispatched for the peaceful purpose of removing mines. Thus, I issued instructions to sincerely and accurately inform the Asian nations of our intent.

Generally speaking, we have received friendly responses from the Asian nations. Some nations said to us that they would cooperate with us in resupplying the minesweepers, if necessary, and that they understand the fact that the minesweepers will be dispatched only for the purpose of removing mines. However, I understand that some other nations expressed some sort of apprehension, as you have pointed out. Because of that, we will sincerely explain to them that, as we stated in the fourth paragraph, there will be no change in our resolve to firmly maintain the ideals of a peaceful nation, which was pledged on the basis of deep self-examination of history, and that Japan would not become a major military power. We will also explain to them that it is an operation for peaceful cooperation.

[Dean of the press corps] In connection with the dispatch of minesweepers, the issue of carrying out activities for the UN peacekeeping operations is one of future political tasks. There is an opinion, agreed by the three parties, to form an organization which is different from the Self-Defense Force [SDF]. At the same time, there is also some criticism about whether a truly effective organization can be established without the SDF, taking into consideration the reality [of the situation] in the Middle East in the post-Gulf war period. What is your comment on this?

[Kaifu] When we proposed the UN peace cooperation bill last year, we were faced with the issue of the so-called PKO [Peacekeeping Operation] problem and logistics of the multinational forces based on the UN resolutions. And, the three-party agreement, you have just pointed out, was reached after going through various complicated discussions. The spirit of the three-party agreement calls for Japan's cooperation with international society. The three parties agreed on the idea of actively participating in the UN peacekeeping operations as much as possible. Moreover, the issue of establishing an organization, which is different from the SDF, is included in the agreement. Thus, the government, respecting the spirit of the three-party agreement, is sending investigation teams to northern European countries, which have PKO organizations, and is also studying the case of Canada. Currently, we are devoting ourselves to carrying out this investigation. We are studying an ideal mechanism for this organization, which will be different from the SDF. There are various kinds of peacekeeping operations; namely the activities of a peacekeeping force, cease-fire observation team, or election observation team. Of late, the logistics covers a wide area. Now, we are sending only parliamentary officials for the logistics. We would like to form a new framework while systematically obtaining understanding from the people. We are currently promoting this work in a hurry. Thus, I am planning to go ahead with it once we obtain an agreement on how much and what we can do.

Moreover, during Diet interpellation, the Democratic Socialist Party of Japan [DSPJ] also introduced a UN peace organization plan. I carefully read the plan and found out that there are many ideas which are similar to ours. The DSPJ maintains a stance of opposing the SDF because it violates the Constitution. This is the fundamental difference between us. However, most of the things they are saying regarding the type of organization for UN cooperation are almost the same as we have said. Thus, I answered at the Diet interpellation that I hoped the DSPJ would join us, if possible, when we concluded the three-party agreement. Nevertheless, we still have not received a response from the DSPJ so this is still just my aspiration. Taking this opportunity, I am planning to conclude, on the basis of the three-party agreement, an ideal way of cooperating with the UN while utilizing the experiences of the past.

[Dean of the press corps] We will finish with questions by the managing group. Now, each reporter can freely ask questions.

[Kaifu] Yes, I said that the decision on the latest measure was made with those things in mind.

[Reporter] You said that this does not constitute a troop dispatch overseas but, as a matter of fact, this is the first time that SDF personnel will be sent abroad, with the exception of a South Pole mission. How do you view this?

[Kaifu] The UN put its peacekeeping function in motion for the first time in 45 years since the World War II when Iraq carried out that act against Kuwait. For the first time since the war, the UN condemned lawless aggression as a destroyer of the peace, coalition forces were organized through the consensus of the international community, and peace was restored. The international community found it imperative to cooperate and sweat together for postwar rehabilitation there. Is this not the first instance after the war, too? On top of that, Iraq dumped oil and burned oil wells, unfathomably wreaking destruction on the environment. To deal with the aftermath, the world community gathered together. All of these developments occurred for the first time since World War II. Japan is the only country to just look on, and after peace is restored in that region... [changes thought] Japan has a daily average of 15 tankers entering or leaving that region, and our country depends on the Middle East for as much as 70 percent of its crude oil imports. The Middle East is, therefore, a vitally important region for Japan. So, Japan wants to contribute with whatever abilities it has to the first post-World War II reality in which the international community cooperates. Moreover, as I said, it is not a military mission and it does not constitute a violation of the Constitution. Under Article 99 of the SDF Law, the removal of mines

is clearly stated; therefore, I take it as one of personnel contributions that meets the demands of the international community. Although there has been no such precedent, I think that Japan must exert efforts and render cooperation actively to help create new peace and order from now on.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, Japan should naturally make personnel contributions. Japan is an economic superpower and a member of the Western camp. Therefore, the decision deserves a lot of evaluation; however, the timing is a problem. In the latest case, the formal armistice by the UN took effect on 12 April, but the hostilities ended in late February. Well, if the Persian Gulf is a vital region for Japan, which depends on it so much for crude oil, why could you not have made the decision to dispatch minesweepers a little sooner? I think this is a question raised not only in the Liberal Democratic Party, but also across the whole nation. What is your reaction to the criticism that the decision was too late?

[Kaifu] Your question is very hard to answer. I had to re-examine the order of that region and our capability to see if we really can accomplish the job. I also had to check and understand how our neighboring countries would react before making a decision. As someone mentioned earlier, this is the first action in a sense. At this point, the SDF has already participated in expeditions to the South Pole; therefore, there are a number of precedents of the SDF being sent overseas that involved no military action. It is the first time that the SDF will go out for minesweeping under Article 99. The last time, during the Nakasone cabinet, both the cabinet and the prime minister said that it was legally permissible to send the SDF overseas; however, there was strife at that time, and people were concerned that if the SDF should be involved in the strife, it might lead to an exercise of force. Because of this, a political decision was made against dispatching the SDF. This is my understanding. All the documents of that time, which I read, state this.

Accordingly, the government had to be very, very careful in dispatching SDF personnel to places where they might be involved in strife. Since the formal armistice took effect on 12 April, Japan time, that concern has completely vanished. This is my perception. The framework for the world's order will now be set by the UN. Japan should render active cooperation toward peacekeeping operations in that region in the future.

This is the way I have been thinking since 12 April. When the actual use of force ended, I thought it was good and I instructed the pertinent ministries and agencies to check the actual situation of that region and report to me expeditiously. After taking those reports into consideration, I carefully weighed the necessity, Japan's capabilities, and other factors before making the decision. Since the decision was made, the government has been conducting various preparations for the dispatch so that the flotilla can depart as soon as possible.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, some countries have already sent their minesweepers to the Persian Gulf and I believe they are already carrying out their work. Will Japan's Maritime SDF minesweepers join them in the work? Will they be taking over a portion of the work, or will they carry out work independently?

[Kaifu] Those countries which participated in the coalition forces have been engaged in the minesweeping work from the time that the armed force began to be used, as you pointed out. The oil wells in Kuwait, however, are still burning. I think that the fire should be extinguished first before making Kuwaiti oil exports possible. Today I checked if ships can enter that area or not. It is said that the areas north of 28 degrees 30 minutes North Longitude and west of 49 degrees 30 minutes East Longitude are danger zones where mines are still believed to be adrift. [as heard] The Iranian side is saying that Iraq laid as many as 1,200 mines in that area and the number appears to be in that vicinity. I am not an expert and I do now know too well but I understand there are various kinds. There are two kinds, at least. One is the so-called moored mines that are moored and the others are laid on the bottom. Some of them, however, have come to the surface. I do not know why they have surfaced but, anyway, they have surfaced. The work to explode them on the sea is being carried out in that vast area. When the SDF personnel to participate in the work from our country arrive there, they will of course get in touch with the countries already doing work there. But it seems that the minesweeping job has to be done with the utmost care. I have been told that Japan has disposed of more than 7,000 mines since the war to date. I found through a careful study that Japan occupies a prominent place in the world in the minesweeping technique. I understand that they cut moored mines, using special technique and tools, to float them or they dive and destroy mines when they detect them. So, I sincerely hope that Japan's contribution will prove effective in insuring safe navigation for ships from various countries of the world, including Japan.

[Reporter] Do you mean that Japan will take over a portion of the waters while keeping in touch with other countries?

[Kaifu] Well, I do not know about that. Our men will carry out the work with utmost care after arriving there on the scene. This is what experts say and I want you to listen to what they say, too. They say that there are the so-called magnetic mines that go off in reponse to magnetism. Some others, they say, explode in reaction to sounds. They go off not at one sound but after three or four sounds. They seem to be of very complex kinds. I would rather refrain from answering your question any further with my superficial knowledge. I am hoping that, since we have a record of having disposed of 7,000 mines in the 40 years after the war, we will be able to produce excellent results by making the most of our experience.

[Reporter] U.S. spokesman Fitzwater made remarks today to the effect that the United States wants Japan to

send SDF aircraft for relief operations for the Kurdish refugees. Now, from the viewpoint of making humanitarian personnel contributions, as stated in the government statement, the refugee issue is believed to fall under the same category. What is your thought in this regard, Mr. Prime Minister?

[Kaifu] Regarding the Kurdish refugees, as I said just now, Japan intends to do as much as it can in terms of new or used goods and personnel contributions. Ms. Ogata, high commissioner for refugee affairs, is to act as a contact point for that matter and she will keep us informed. The decision I made today to contribute a total of $100 million was made through my independent judgment after hearing details from Ms. Ogata. That is the maximum cooperation we can extend within our power. I plan to continue working, keeping in consultations with High Commissioner Ogata in the future, too.

[Reporter] What about the dispatch of SDF aircraft for relief operations for the Kurdish refugees?

[Kaifu] As far as that issue is concerned, I have not reached a point where I can make an announcement yet. I have not even discussed the matter yet. This is the first time....

[Reporter, interrupting] Do you mean that there is a possibility of sending SDF aircraft, or do you mean that you will examine it?

[Kaifu] After hearing about the actual state of the Kurdish refugees in detail from High Commissioner Ogata, I will study what action Japan can take accordingly. If she gives full explanations, I will examine the issue.

[Reporter] Do you mean that the SDF will be put to service for relief operations for the refugees?

[Kaifu] No, no. If I give an immediate answer here and now, I might create misunderstandings. I reported to you frankly on the decisions made within the limit of Japan's ability.

[Dean of the Press Corps] Any more questions?

[Reporter] Do you intend to see them off when the minesweepers leave [words indistinct]?

[Kaifu] The House of Representatives and the House of Councillors are to convene emergency sessions tomorrow and the day after tomorrow respectively to ask questions in connection with the decision. The following day I have to leave for a tour of Southeast Asian countries early in the morning. Therefore, I think I will have no time to do so. So, I called in Defense Agency Director General Ikeda and the Maritime SDF chief of staff today. I asked them to convey to the SDF personnel the following: This is the first minesweeping task to be carried out since the war and the first mission for insuring navigational safety through international cooperation. Up to now, the SDF has been engaging in disaster relief and other rescue and relief activities at home, winning the nation's understanding. Therefore, I want you to return home after producing good results through your international contribution by putting your experience to date to use. I extended my heartfelt encouragement to the members of the flotilla. I believe that the Maritime SDF chief of staff will be on hand to see them off and convey my words to them.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much.

[Kaifu] Thank you very much.

Kaifu Reiterates Position

OW2504034491 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Speaking at the House of Representatives' Finance Committee today, Prime Minister Kaifu emphatically reiterated his view that dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] minesweepers to the Persian Gulf is possible within the extent of the existing law as it is being carried out pursuant to Article 99 of the SDF Law.

Representative Sosuke Miyashi of Komeito asked him at the lower house Finance Committee whether the dispatch of the SDF minesweepers to the Persian Gulf, decided on by the government yesterday, did not require a new law to justify it.

In reply to the question, Prime Minister Kaifu said that Article 99 of the SDF Law allows the SDF to participate in operations to remove mines. When the dispatch of minesweepers was discussed in 1987 at the time of the Nakasone cabinet, there were views that they could become involved in a conflict since the Iran-Iraq war was going on at that time.

This time, Mr. Kaifu noted, the cease-fire has formally taken effect. Where mines are concerned, even Iraq has notified the United Nations of the sites where it originally laid them. They are believed to have become adrift. Hence, the operation to clear the mines is not an exercise of force. Thus, the prime minister emphasized his view again that dispatch of the SDF minesweepers is possible within the framework of the existing law.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Nakayama spoke about the dispatch overseas of the SDF minesweepers at the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives today. He noted that it is now peacetime and that navigation of vessels is being threatened by mines. He added that as long as there are no objections from the nations in the area, the government can send the minesweepers again in the future.

Representative Torao Takazawa of the Social Democratic Party of Japan brought up the question of dispatching the SDF minesweepers to the Gulf area, and pointed out that countries such as South Korea think the dispatch should be limited to this one time only. He queried about the future position of the government in this respect, asking: If mines were found to have been

land in the Malacca Strait, for instance, can the minesweepers be sent overseas again?"

In reply, Foreign Minister Nakayama said that when certain situations arise, judgment to deal with them will be formed only after full discussions at the National Security Council and other organizations. He said if conditions are met, the dispatch should be possible again in the future. He cited such conditions as that it should be peacetime, that mines pose a danger to the navigation of vessels, and that the removal of the mines will lead to international contribution.

Foreign Minister Comments

OW2504121991 Tokyo KODO in English 0630 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said in the Diet on Thursday that any future overseas dispatch of Japanese minesweepers would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Nakayama was speaking to the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee on the government decision Wednesday to send four minesweepers to the Persian Gulf.

Nakayama said any future dispatch of minesweepers would depend on whether it was for a peaceful purpose, whether it made some form of international contribution, whether it had humanitarian significance to the nation, whether transit of the ships could be safely guaranteed, and whether neighboring countries did not oppose the move.

Nakayama was replying to a question from Social Democratic Party (SDP) member Torao Takazawa, who asked whether the dispatch of the minesweepers to the Gulf would be a once-only measure.

Makoto Watanabe, head of the Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, told the committee that any decision would have to be based on conditions pertaining at the time and that it was difficult to make an unqualified judgment on the question.

Asked by Takazawa how the minesweepers would respond if fired upon, Shunji Yanai, head of the ministry's Treaties Bureau, said a ceasefire in the Gulf is now in place, making it extremely difficult to imagine any use of force against the minesweepers.

Takazawa asked if it was possible the government would dispatch the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) overseas to protect Japanese citizens in a dangerous situation. Nakayama said the government was not considering such a move.

Watanabe also denied the government is considering the use of the SDF to assist Kurdish refugees in the Middle East.

Government Urges Public Support

OW2404145291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1401 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—The Government on Wednesday issued a statement calling for public support of its decision to send minesweepers to the Persian Gulf to help clear hundreds of mines laid by Iraq in the Gulf waters.

"The government pleads for the understanding and cooperation on the part of each Japanese citizen" for the formal decision approved in an extra cabinet meeting and a meeting of the Security Council—the nation's top security decision-making body.

The statement said the deployment does not contravene Japan's war-renouncing Constitution, saying, "the dispatch does not constitute any overseas deployment of military personnel banned by the Constitution, as the purpose of the dispatch is not the use of military forces, but the elimination of the mines that were discharged (by the Iraqi Navy) into the Persian waters."

The statement assured the Japanese that the government will not break its determination to live up to the ideal of renouncing any use of forces, quoting a passage from the Constitution, "the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes."

The statement also said the Japanese vowed to renounce war as they were deeply repentant about the suffering the nation caused during World War II.

The statement said, "It is necessary for Japan to contribute to the welfare of the world community not only in the field of financial and materialistic assistance but in the field of manpower. The dispatch of the minesweepers also bears significance in that it has the peaceful and humanitarian purposes of securing the safe passage of ships through the Persian Gulf waters and of helping reconstruct the war-ravaged countries.

"Securing the safe passage of ships is an urgent task for Japan which depends on crude oil imports from the Persian Gulf region for sizable portions of the indispensable crude oil to the presence of Japan as a nation."

Opposition Parties Criticize Decision

OW2404161591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1552 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Four major opposition parties Wednesday responded angrily to a government decision to dispatch a group of minesweepers to the Persian Gulf, but the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) hailed the mission.

"The government trampled upon the spirit of the Constitution by ramming through such a crucial decision without thorough parliamentary debate and public

endorsement. The decision represents a fundamental departure from the post-war Japanese administrations' long-standing policy of using the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] solely for the defense of the country against possible military attacks from outside forces," the Social Democratic Party's Secretary General Tsutomu Yamaguchi said in a statement.

Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa said "the decision will exert a disastrous effect on the future of this country. National consensus has not yet been built regarding the government proposal to dispatch and employ the Self-Defense Forces overseas for international cooperation. Democratic procedures involving parliamentary debate and the revision of the Self-Defense Forces Law) is necessary."

LDP Secretary General Kozo Watchi countered the complaints by saying "to secure the safe passage of ships in the Persian Gulf waters is an urgent task for Japan. The government decided to dispatch the Maritime Self-Defense Force minesweepers to contribute to the welfare of the international community while trying to meet calls of expectations from inside and outside of Japan."

The government "pleads for public support" for the decision, he said, because it lives up to the ideals of the Constitution for Japan to seek peace in the world.

The Communist Party was blunt. "Under any pretext, deploying the Self-Defense Forces overseas in any form directly contradicts the Constitution's peace-ensuring principles," said Secretariat Chief Kazuo Shii in a statement.

United Social Democratic Party General Secretary Shogo Abe also condemned the government for "forcing through the decision by circumventing constitutionally-mandated legislative procedures calling for a vote by the legislature."

Abe said the government railroaded through the decision, by "applying loose interpretations to the present Self-Defense Forces Law. We cannot approve of such action."

The DSP issued a statement saying, "the government decision serves two objectives of ensuring the safe navigation of ships in the Gulf waters and of contributing to the common interests of the world community."

The statement, however, demanded that the government enforce the decision after imposing tough restraints on such actions to ease public fears that SDF deployments will happen repeatedly.

Further on Reaction

OW2404152491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1505 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—The Japanese Government Wednesday called for public support for its "peaceful, humanitarian contribution policies," after deciding to dispatch a minesweeper task force to the Persian Gulf for post-war clean-up. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan Abd al-'Aziz al-Shuraikh welcomed the government decision as "very much in line with Japan's well known peaceful endeavors and positive role in the world."

Earlier, Philippine Foreign Ministry officials offered no objection to the mission, saying it was for the safety of navigation in the Gulf and a benefit to international shipping.

China, meanwhile, cautioned Japan about the dispatch of SDF [Self-Defense Forces] forces overseas, calling it an "extremely delicate issue."

At the home port of 13 MSDF [Maritime Self-Defense Forces] minesweepers in Kure, Hiroshima Prefecture, pacifists took to the waters near the base in rubber dinghies to protest the deployment. Their demonstration was scattered by Maritime Safety Agency patrol boats.

Nine Hiroshima residents also filed suit against the government, contending the deployment violates Article 9 of the Constitution which prohibits the use of force in resolving international disputes.

Bomb Attacks Linked To Minesweeper Decision

OW2504035091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0035 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Time bombs exploded in six cars parked at two different dormitories used by the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) in Tokyo and Kanagawa Prefecture early Thursday morning, police said.

They suspect the bombs were plant ed by extremists opposed to the dispatch of SDF minesweepers to the Persian Gulf.

Police said two passenger cars in front of an SDF dormitory in Tokyo's Nerima Ward burst into flames in a loud explosion shortly after 4 A.M. They found part of time bomb devices under the two cars.

The bombs in the other four cars exploded at about 4:05 A.M. in Nakahara Ward, Kawasaki.

The cabinet gave its formal approval Wednesday evening to plans to send four minesweepers and support ships from the Maritime Self- Defense Force to help clear mines planted in the Persian Gulf war. The ships will sail on Friday.

SDF Members Arrested for Minesweeper Protest

OW2504120890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0700 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Two Self-Defense Forces (SDF) members in active service and one former SDF member were arrested Thursday after trying to

deliver a petition to the chief of the Defense Agency protesting the government's decision to dispatch minesweepers to the Persian Gulf.

The three, in uniform, entered the secretarial room next to the office of Defense Agency Director General Yukihiko Ikeda at 11:10 A.M., and demanded to meet Ikeda to hand over the petition, witnesses said.

They scuffled with guards shouting, "(the decision) is unconstitutional. What is wrong with seeking justice?" According to the witnesses.

Ikeda was receiving a courtesy visit by the French ambassador to Japan when the three men demanded to meet him, agency officials said.

They moved to the room of the Administration Division and delivered the petition to the head of the division.

The three were arrested by military police on charges of obstructing government officials in the execution of their duties.

They were identified as Sergeant Morio Yoshimoto, 35, Leading Private Yasuyuki Fujio, 24, and former Sergeant First Class Kenji Kataoka, 39.

They said in the petition that the sending of the minesweepers to the Gulf is unconstitutional and a military threat to Asian and Middle East countries.

The petition demanded an immediate halt to the overseas deployment of the minesweeper group, freedom of expression and the right to reject unlawful orders for SDF members, and revocation of punishment and transfers meted out to them.

Kataoka was fired from the SDF in 1989 after refusing a transfer order from Tokyo to Hokkaido because of his antiwar activities.

The government on Wednesday formally approved the first overseas nontraining deployment of the SDF since its establishment in 1954. The forerunner to the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) took part in a secret minesweeping operation in South Korea during the Korean War.

Four minesweepers and two support vessels, with 500 MSDF personnel, are scheduled to leave Friday for the Gulf to help clear mines laid by Iraq.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said the deployment of minesweepers to the Gulf does not contravene the war-renouncing constitution or the Self-Defense Law, saying the mission is not aimed at attacking any nation.

South Korean Foreign Minister's Visit Continues

Meets With Nakayama

OW2504032191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0315 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Japan will support South Korea if it applies for membership of the United Nations unilaterally, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told his South Korean counterpart Yi Sang-ok on Thursday.

Government officials said Nakayama pledged Japan's support during a regular foreign ministers' meeting between the two countries being held in Tokyo.

Seoul has indicated it will apply unilaterally to join the U.N. if North Korea does not agree to the South's proposal that the two Koreas should have simultaneous but separate seats in the world body.

Pyongyang insists that Korea is one country and that the two governments should therefore share a single U.N. seat, taking turns to send their ambassadors.

During the meting, Yi showed understanding on the controversial issue of Japan's decision to dispatch Maritime Self-Defense Force [MSDF] minesweepers to the Persian Gulf, the officials said.

The Cabinet gave its formal approval Wednesday evening to plans to send four MSDF minesweepers, a support ship and a supply ship to the Gulf to held clear mines laid by Iraqi forces. The ships will sail on Friday.

It will be the first dispatch overseas of the Self-Defense Forces on a mission other than training since 1954, when the SDF was established.

UN Membership Discussed

OW2504050291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0445 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Japan is ready to throw its support behind South Korea if it decides to seek membership of the United Nations independently from North Korea, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told his South korean counterpart Yi Sang-ok on Thursday, according to Foreign Ministry officials.

The officials said Nakayama conveyed Japan's support in the second session of foreign ministerial talks since Yi arrived Wednesday on a three-day official visit, his first overseas trip since assuming his post in last December's cabinet reshuffle.

Yi was quoted as saying it is South Korea's No. 1 diplomatic priority to join the U.N. as a full member within the year.

Officials said he called on Japan to support South Korea's application for U.N. membership, which is expected to be made at the opening of this year's General Assembly session in September.

Yi said North Korea continues to reject Seoul's formula under which both governments would join simultaneously but separately.

South Korea, meanwhile, opposes Pyongyang's formula for a single- seat membership shared by both North and South Korea. Pyongyang contends that South Korea's formula would perpetuate the division of the Korean Peninsula.

Nakayama was quoted as saying Japan considers North Korea's proposal to be "unrealistic."

Japan, he said, desires to see the simultaneous entry into the U.N. of both North and South Korea, but would support Seoul's solo entry if North Korea refuses to come around to the idea.

Nakayama volunteered Japan's help in persuading China, one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, not to veto South Korea's bid for membership if it comes to a vote, officials said.

Yi told Nakayama that the Soviet Union has expressed its understanding of South Korea's bid for solo U.N. entry, but has called for further inter-Korean talks on the issue as there is still time remaining before the General Assembly session.

Moscow vetoed Seoul's last attempt to enter the U.N. in 1975, but relations between Seoul and Moscow have warmed dramatically since then, culminating in Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to South Korea last week.

Officials said Yi praised efforts made by Japan amid the Gulf crisis, including its large-scale financial contributions to both the U.S.-led allied war effort and postwar rehabilitation efforts.

Yi was quoted as saying South Korea understands and is pleased with Japan's explanation that its decision to dispatch minesweepers to the Persian Gulf region is for peaceful purposes and does not mean that Japan is unconstitutionally deploying troops outside its borders.

Officials said Nakayama responded that Japan wants to do what it can within the constraints of its peace constitution to secure stability in the Persian Gulf region in the wake of the war.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu announced Wednesday that four minesweeping vessels, a support ship, and a supply ship will sail for the Gulf on Friday.

It will be the first time the SDF has been sent overseas, except for training exercises, since its establishment in 1954.

Officials said Yi told Nakayama that Pyongyang has responded negatively to Seoul's proposal that the fourth Prime Ministers' talks between North and South Korea be held on May 22.

The talks, which were originally set for February, were postponed after North Korea made them conditional on the South's agreement to a nonaggression pact, the scrapping of certain laws, the release of prisoners, and an end to the annual "Team Spirit" military exercises with the United States.

Nakayama said Japan is doing what it can on the sidelines to promote dialogue between the two Koreas, stressing the importance of an enhanced inter-Korean dialogue whenever the opportunity arises in talks with other countries.

Officials also quoted him as saying that at the next round of normalization talks between Japan and North Korea, set to be held in Beijing in May, Tokyo will not selfishly proceed without taking into account the interests of South Korea and other countries.

Japan, he said, will stress at the third round of talks the importance of North Korea's heeding its obligations under the treaty of nuclear non-proliferation, namely allowing international inspection of its nuclear facilities to erase suspicion it is producing nuclear arms.

Yi and Nakayama, who last met when the Japanese Foreign Minister accompanied Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to Seoul last January, agreed in their meeting Wednesday that the political situation in the Asia-Pacific regional is not yet ripe for the security and confidence-building proposals advanced by Gorbachev during his visit to Tokyo last week.

Gorbachev had called for military consultations among the Soviet Union, the United States, and Japan, as well as a five-party conference that would also include China and India, to discuss the idea of a multilateral forum on regional security and cooperation.

Nakayama and Yi were scheduled to meet again later Thursday to discuss bilateral issues. Yi was also to pay a call on Kaifu. He leaves for the United States on Friday.

Yi, meeting Nakayama again in the evening, said he hopes there will be close consultations between South Korea and Japan on the question of membership for China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong in the Asia-Pacific Economic Coooperation (APEC) forum, which will hold its third ministerial meeting in Seoul next November.

Officials said Nakayama responded that Japan welcomes South Korea's initiative promoting membership in APEC for the three so- called "Chinese economies."

He told Yi that Japan supports their joining the regional trade forum simultaneously and as soon as possible.

He was quoted as saying Japan hopes there will not be firm distinctions drawn between the three Chinese economies when it comes to matters of substance.

Officials said the Japanese foreign minister was alluding to China's demand that it be admitted as a country, while Taiwan and Hong Kong should be considered only

"economic entities." They noted that Beijing is emphatic that there is only one China.

APEC, founded in November 1989, now has 12 members—Japan, South Korea, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. South Korea is reportedly also pressing for membership for North Korea and the Soviet Union.

Turning to bilateral matters, Yi expressed concern over his country's growing trade deficit with Japan, which hit a record high in 1990.

Officials said he also called for greater transfers of Japanese technology that can be adapted for use in South Korean industry.

Nakayama, meanwhile, asked South Korea to remove discriminatory restrictions on a number of categories of Japanese exports.

Officials said the two foreign ministers agreed to hold the first meeting of a trade and industry technological cooperation committee June 17-18 in Tokyo.

Creation of the committee was agreed upon during the last regular foreign ministerial talks in Seoul in November.

Meets With Kaifu

OW2504112991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1055 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu thanked South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok on Thursday for supporting Japan's decision to dispatch minesweepers to the Persian Gulf, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Kaifu also told Yi that Japan is prepared to back Seoul if it applies to join the United Nations independently, despite opposition by Pyongyang, which advocates a shared seat.

South Korea is expected to seek membership when the UN General Assembly convenes in September.

Kaifu, meeting Yi the day after officially announcing plans to send a fleet of four minesweepers, a support ship, and a supply ship to help clear shipping lanes in the Gulf, was quoted as saying he was pleased that Seoul understands Japan's "true intentions."

Kaifu told Yi he hopes their understanding on this issue will forge the basis for further strengthening of relations between the two countries.

South Korea issued a statement of approval Thursday shortly after Japan announced plans to send the six-ship, 500-crewman flotilla.

This will be the first time Japan's Self-Defense Forces have gone overseas, except for training exercises, since their establishment in 1954.

Earlier in the day, Yi told Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama that he understood the effort so long as it is for peaceful purposes.

South Korea regards the contribution as consistent with Japan's war-renouncing constitution, which bans the use of force to resolve international conflicts, officials said.

Yi has been in Japan since Wednesday on a three-day visit for a regular round of foreign ministerial talks.

In his 25-minute meeting with Kaifu, Yi praised a clause in the joint communique issued during Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's April 16-19 visit to Japan calling on North Korea to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

While North Korea signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty in 1985, it has never allowed a complete outside inspection of its facility in Yongbyon, 90 kilometers north of Pyongyang, which South Korean and U.S. officials charge is designed to produce plutonium for nuclear bombs.

Nakayama, in the second session of foreign ministerial talks Thursday, told Yi that Japan will stress its demand that North Korea accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities when the two countries hold their third round of normalization talks in May.

Nakayama also stated support for South Korea's aspirations to join the United Nations, saying he regards North Korea's proposal for a shared seat as unrealistic.

The two Koreas are at loggerheads over how to join the world body, with Seoul preferring simultaneous membership as two separate states, a formula Pyongyang argues would perpetuate the division of the Korean Peninsula.

Yi told Nakayama that the Soviet Union has expressed "understanding" for Seoul's solo entry, but wants futher inter- Korean talks on the issue before the UN General Assembly session in September.

Moscow vetoed a 1975 attempt by Seoul to join the UN, but relations have warmed dramatically in the past year, culminating in Gorbachev's visit to South Korea last week.

Yi told Nakayama that Pyongyang has responded coolly to Seoul's proposal to hold a fourth round of prime ministers' talks on May 22.

Pyongyang postponed the talks, originally slated for February, and made them conditional on a list of demands including agreement to a nonagression pact, and an end to annual military exercises with the United States.

Yi and Nakayama agreed that the political situation in the Asia- Pacific region is not yet ripe for the security proposals advanced by Gorbachev while he was in Tokyo.

Gorbachev called for security consultations among the Soviet Union, the United States, and Japan, and proposed a five-party conference that would also include China and India.

Kaifu and Nakayama last met Yi in January when they traveled to Seoul.

Yi, on his first overseas trip since assuming his post in a cabinet reshuffle last December, is to depart for the U.S. Friday.

Kaifu Remarks on USSR Aid, G-7 Summit

OW2504060391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0536 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Thursday that the issue of financial assistance to the Soviet Union will be high on the agenda at the London summit in July of major industrialized nations.

Replying to a question at the House of Representatives' Finance Committee, Kaifu said financial aid to Moscow is not a matter that only Japan can tackle, and that his government will join in the concerted cooperation by other major Western nations toward the Soviet Union.

He said that reports prepared by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international institutions have suggested that technical cooperation to help the shift to market-oriented economy should come before full-scale financial assistance to the Soviet Union.

Referring to the problem of settling the Japan-Soviet territorial dispute over four islands east of Hokkaido and concluding a bilateral peace treaty, Kaifu said the problem cannot be frozen and therefore his government will deal with it simultaneously with the issue of financial assistance.

Ministry Official Comments

OW2504054191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0225 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Vancouver, Canada, April 24 KYODO—The Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized countries will stop short of extending full-fledged economic aid to the Soviet Union, a senior Japanese Finance Ministry official said Wednesday.

Instead, the official said, the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Britain, and Canada will reaffirm only their "political support" for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroyka program during a meeting of their finance ministers and central bank governors in Washington on Sunday.

"Japan, the U.S., and Britain are cautious but are not necessarily reluctant" to offer aid to the Soviets, he said.

"If we do nothing, perestroyka may collapse and the conservative forces, led by the Army, may be strengthened," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"If Gorbachev's perestroyka fails, the world will suffer," he added.

The official made the remarks just before the opening of an annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank.

Japan refuses to give full-fledged economic aid to Moscow, or sign a peace treaty with the Soviet Union, pending the resolution of a decades-old dispute over four Soviet-held islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

Gorbachev's visit to Japan last week produced little or no progress on the territorial dispute.

MITI Official Comments on U.S. Chip Talks

OW2504053591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0316 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Trade officials from Japan and the United States continued talks to hammer out a new bilateral semiconductor trade agreement Thursday morning, an official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said.

"They are bending over backward to forge a new pact in the current round of talks," said Hirobumi Kawano, director of MITI's Americas Division.

The second day of the fourth round of talks on the new chip accord, which should replace the current agreement when its five- year term expires at the end of July, dragged through Wednesday and into the early hours of Thursday, Kawano said.

Several ad hoc meetings were held between experts in parallel with meetings between high-level officials, he said.

"The two sides have not yet shaken hands on any aspect of the negotiations, which are tough," he said.

The biggest obstacles to the conclusion of the negotiations are the issues of whether a target figure for the foreign share of the Japanese market, namely 20 percent, should be included, and whether the U.S. should lift remaining sanctions imposed for Japan's alleged violation of the current pact, he said.

"We have no intention of agreeing to a pact without the U.S. scrapping the unilateral sanctions," Kawano said.

Other topics discussed were the differing statistics on chip trade adopted by the two governments, the term of the new agreement, and measures for cracking down on dumping.

Kawano hinted the two sides were edging toward clinching the new pact, saying the negotiators were already working on the draft proposals for the agreement.

The talks are likely to continue into Friday morning, Kawano said.

Third Medical Team To Visit Iran To Help Kurds

OW2504092991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0859 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—The government decided Thursday to send a third medical team to Iran to assist Kurdish refugees near the Turkish and Iraqi borders, the Foreign Ministry said.

The team will leave Japan on May 2. Similar teams, consisting mainly of medical experts, were sent to Iran on April 12 and 18 in response to requests from the Iranian Government.

The 12-member third team, also containing doctors and nurses, is expected to operate in the mountainous West Azarbaijan Province in the country's far northwest where an estimated one million Iraqis, mostly Kurds, have moved to.

The ministry said the refugees' need for medical assistance is "enormous." The government is ready to send additional teams if necessary, it said.

Minister Urges Manufactured Imports Boost

OW2504062191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0354 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Eiichi Nakao urged the presidents of leading Japanese companies on Thursday to give a renewed push to their import drive to help curb Japan's resurgent trade surplus, officials said.

Nakao, in the annual meeting with top executives of major companies, called on them to boost their imports of finished products, at least by 10 percent, said Hirokazu Hayashi, director of the Import Division of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

Japan's trade surplus soared 24.0 percent in March from a year earlier, posting the third consecutive year-on-year upswing.

Imports also grew at a healthy 10.4 percent in the month, but those of finished products are losing steam.

Imports of finished products rose 8.0 percent in the first three months of 1991, but the performance was lackluster compared with the 33.8 percent surge in fiscal 1987, and down from 11.8 percent growth in fiscal 1989 and 11.5 percent in fiscal 1990.

The downward trend of Japan's trade surplus in the past few years is apparently showing signs of a turnaround, Nakao was quoted as saying.

Pointing to "persistent criticism of Japan" by its trading partners over its towering trade surplus, Nakao asked for fresh efforts to increase imports on the part of the major companies.

The meeting was attended by the presidents of 164 companies from a wide range of industrial sectors.

The ministry will also pass on Nakao's message to another 151 firms through its local branches, Hayashi said.

Nakao also called on the company heads to cooperate as much as possible with foreign countries' programs to boost exports to Japan, like those adopted by the U.S., Britain, and the European Community, and to draw up their own programs, if they have not done so yet, for import expansion.

Responding to Nakao's call, some company heads who attended the meeting made their own requests.

Minoru Onishi, president of Fuji Photo Film Co., said loans by the Export-Import Bank of Japan for overseas investments should be enlarged.

Mazda Motor Corp. President Norimasa Furuta called for scrapping the remaining tariffs on some imports of auto parts.

Bank Report Predicts Expansion of Economy

OW2404145491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1356 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—The Japanese economy is not in danger of deteriorating sharply in the near future and will continue to expand at a moderate pace, according to a Bank of Japan (BOJ) report released Wednesday.

In the report, assessing the state of the economy this spring, the central bank indicated it will maintain its focus on prices, while taking the economy into consideration.

"The uptrend in prices will continue," as higher labor and distribution costs are passed on to prices, it said.

Since the report is the first compiled since the end of the Persian Gulf war, it showed firms were becoming more upbeat about the economy's outlook.

"The uncertainty of corporate managers regarding the direction of the economy is fading," it said.

Technological innovation and investment needed to deal with the labor shortage, the report said, will keep capital spending strong.

The current high level of orders for machinery and buildings bears witness to the nation's vigorous capital spending, it said.

The relatively high level of personal spending is expected to continue as long as prices are stable and women continue to enter and remain in the job market.

The decline in housing investment should be relatively mild as the downtrend in housing starts is partly offset by price rises.

Prices are seen to be steadily rising despite the drop in oil prices and stability of international commodities markets.

The favorable impact of such factors will be eclipsed by the rise in the price of finished goods as higher costs are passed on to prices, according to the report.

"It is hoped that the tempo of the economic growth slowdown is enough to ensure price stability," it said.

North Korea

Yun Ki-pok Sends Letter to Overseas Counterpart

SK2304155791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1519 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 23 (KCNA)—Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the North side's headquarters of the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification (Pomminnyon), sent a letter on April 20 to Yun I-sang, chairman of the overseas headquarters of Pomminnyon, denouncing the reckless moves of the South Korean authorities to block the formation of the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon and calling for jointly supporting in the North and overseas the struggle for the formation of the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon.

The letter said:

The work to inaugurate a headquarters of Pomminnyon in South Korea is confronted with grave obstacles and the safety of personages of different social strata is exposed to great danger.

We are watching with deep apprehension the reckless moves of the South Korean authorities to block the formation of the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon denouncing them as an open challenge to dialogue and reunification.

The formation of the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon is now put on the order of the day as an urgent and important task which brooks no further delay.

Therefore, we regard it a primary task for the brothers and sisters and all other people in the North and overseas to actively support with joint action the patriotic activities of South Korean personages of different strata to inaugurate the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon.

To actively help the formation of the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon is a bounden duty either in view of the development of the reunification movement or in view of our obligation to attain the common purpose.

When the struggle for the formation of the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon is jointly supported by the North and overseas, it will imbue the South Korean personages fighting under difficult conditions with fresh strength and courage and give a great hope to the entire fellow countrymen desirous of reunification.

We courteously propose to define May marking the 11th anniversary of the Kwangju uprising as a month of struggle supporting the formation of the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon and to take measures for lifting up voices of support in various forms and ways in conformity with the actual conditions and cicumstances in the North and overseas in order to actively support the righteous struggle of the pro-reunification patriotic forces of the South to set up the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon.

In the northern half of the country, we will hold mass rallies and employ all possible means in the struggle for the release of the unreasonably arrested members of the preparatory committee for the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon and other patriots, and organize a struggle for the abolition of the "National Security Law" and other anti-reunification laws and the achievement of the freedom of political activities and the reunification movement in South Korea and make vigorous efforts to indict the anti-national nature of the separatist forces.

If the overseas headquarters of Pomminnyon proposes more effective measures for support struggle and asks for joint action, we will express welcome and full support to it.

I take this opportunity to express respect to the patriotic activities of you Mr. Chairman and officials of the overseas headquarters of Pomminnyon and other compatriots and express the belief that the overseas headquarters will take joint action with us in the nationwide struggle to support the righteous activities of the South Korean people and pro-reunification patriots to form the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon.

Notice Sent to South Red Cross President

SK2504035891 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society, today sent a notice to Kim Sang-hyop, president of the South Korean Red Cross.

The notice reads: At the request of the chairman of the North side's Headquarters of the Pan-national Alliance for the Country's Reunification [Chotongnyon], I will send two liaison officials to the conference room of the Neutral Nations Superviory Commission at Panmunjom

at 1600 on 25 April 1991, Thursday, to deliver a letter addressed to the Reverend Mun Ik-hwan, chairman of the preparatory committee for forming the South side's Chotongnyon.

I hope that your side will take steps to correspond to this telephone notice.

Letter to ROK's Mun Ik-hwan Aired Over Radio

SK2504111291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the North side's headquarters of the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification (Pomminnyon), today sent over radio his letter to the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, chairman of the preparatory committee for the formation of the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon, after the South Korean authorities unreasonably refused to take it over.

Noting that the separatist forces are intensifying anti-communist confrontation and the moves to legitimate the division of the country internationally and suppressing the pro-reunification patriots more harshly than ever before, the letter says:

The acute situation makes it incumbent on the pro-reunification patriotic forces to firmly unite and vigorously wage a nationwide struggle to decisively check and foil the criminal moves of the separatist forces at home and abroad and turn the table in favour of national reunification.

You and other members of the "Coalition for National Democratic Movement" clarified again the decision to convene the second August 15 pan-national rally for peace and reunification of the country in Seoul as scheduled in cooperation with the pro-reunification patriotic forces of South Korea of various circles. This greatly inspires the entire fellow countrymen who ardently desire the peaceful reunification of the country.

Not only we but overseas Koreans are deeply interested in the pan-national rally for the reunification of the country to be held in Seoul and are stepping up preparations in every way for the successful promotion of the rally.

The only matter of our apprehension is the formation of the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon, the host of the second August pan-national rally.

I inform you that with the intention to actively help the efforts of you in South Korea, the North side's headquarters and the overseas headquarters of Pomminnyon designated May in which falls the 11th anniversary of the Kwangju uprising as a month of struggle for support to the formation of the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon and decided to actively wage a support movement in various forms and ways under given conditions.

All the pro-reunification patriotic forces in the North and overseas will do all they can to support the struggle of the pro-reunification patriotic forces in South Korea to form the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon.

We believe that you and members of the preparatory committee will manage to form the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon in a short period, pulling through all difficulties so as to bring earlier the day when the pro-reunification patriotic figures from the North, the South and overseas will sit together and demonstrate the victory of great national unity and the bright prospect of the peaceful reunification of the country.

Kang Tae-mu Views South Minister's 'Outburst'

SK2504051591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—The criminal war provocation plot of the U.S imperialists and the South Korean authorities must be stopped at once and the bellicose elements of South Korea running about recklessly at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists be removed forthwith.

Kang Tae-mu, director of the Secretariat of the Consultative Council of Former South Korean Politicians in the North for the Promotion of Peaceful Reunification, said this in his press statement Wednesday denouncing the recent outburst of the South Korean puppet defence minister threatening to surprise and destroy our "atomic reactor facilities".

He branded the puppet defense minister's bellicose outburst as a dangerous blast to bring the tension on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war by further aggravating it and a most undisguised declaration negating dialogue and the peaceful reunification to foil dialogue by deliberately aggravating the North-South relations.

In case the rash act of the South Korean authorities directly leads to a war, our nation will suffer irrevocable catastrophic disasters and peace in Asia and the world be gravely jeopardized, he said, and adding:

The tragedy of the bisection of the territory and the division of the nation forced by outside forces is deplorable enough. We can never leave our nation to be plunged into the scourge of war imposed by the U.S. imperialists, ignoring the desire of the 70 million Koreans for peaceful reunification.

With the bellicose elements willing to impose irrevocable disaster and scourge on the whole nation and harass world peace and security left alone in South Korea, neither dialogue nor peace and reunification are thinkable in our country, he said.

Planned Visit by PRC Premier Li Peng Announced

SK2504105091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, will pay an official goodwill visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from May 3 to 6 at the invitation of Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Delegation Arrives

SK2404060491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—A Foreign Ministry delegation of Iran headed by Director General M.R. Alborzi arrived here Tuesday.

Supports North on UN Entry Issue

SK2504114291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1056 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Yang Hyong-sop today met and had a friendly conversation with the Foreign Ministry delegation of Iran led by Director General M.R. Alborzi at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Pointing out that Iran and Korea have closely supported and cooperated with each other in political, economic and technological fields and on international arena, the head of the delegation stressed the need to further strengthen and develop the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries.

The Iranian Government and people, he said, will take the same stand with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in regard to the unilateral entry of South Korea into the United Nations and its admission to the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM].

Report on SPA Second-Day Morning Session

SK2504070891 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0600 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] We will carry a report on the morning sitting of the second-day meeting of the Second Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the DPRK.

Discussions continued at the meeting on the first agenda item, which is on the results of the fulfillment of the state budget for 1990 and on the state budget for 1991 of the DPRK.

Deputy Kim Song-ku participated in the discussions at the meeting.

[Begin Kim recording] Deputy Comrades: I take great pride in the fact that, last year, under the wise leadership of the party and the leader, our people, upholding the socialist banner amid the turbulent tide of history, courageously overcame all the trials and difficulties and more vigorously waged struggles. As a result, they achieved brilliant feats in socialist construction and successfully fulfilled the state budget.

I firmly believe that this year, too, our people, upholding the party's leadership, will vigorously carry out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—and will endlessly achieve upsurges in all the fronts of socialist construction, thus bringing proud achievements. I fully support the results of the fulfillment of the state budget for last year and the state budget for 1991, which was presented to this session for an examination. [applause]

The Government of the Republic considers the promotion of the people's welfare as the highest principle in carrying out state activities. Based upon this principle, the government invests much money in developing the local industries every year. Last year, too, it invested a large amount of money in the local industrial sector. As a result, the material and technological basis of the local industries has been further strengthened, and more high-quality daily necessities of processed foods of various sorts have been produced, thus greatly contributing to meeting the people's daily growing diverse materials demands.

Developing small and medium-sized local industries as well as large-scale central industries is the most just policy of our style of building the light industries, to which our party has consistently adhered.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has paid great attention to developing the local industries since we started building a new society after the liberation. With a far-reaching plan to rapidly develop the local industries and significantly increase the production of people's consumer goods, thus improving the people's lives, he presented the creative policy of developing the local industries according to natural and geographical characteristics of each local area and has wisely led a struggle to implement this policy.

The great leader has taken the revolutionary measure of building suitable local industrial plants on a large scale at all the cities and countries across the country depending upon resources and materials available at each city or county; has personally given on-the-spot guidance to numerous local industrial plants and has elucidated the directions and methods for developing the local industries; and has given instructions for rapidly developing the local industries by mobilizing all the reserves and potentials in local areas.

The dear comrade leader, who is brilliantly implementing the far-reaching plan of the great leader, has paid great attention to developing the local industries and has solved all the problems in developing the local industries. He has energetically led the struggle to produce more high-quality people's consumer goods by thoroughly implementing the party's policy of carrying out a light industrial revolution.

In last year's historic letter sent to the participants in the national light-industry meeting, the dear comrade leader clearly elucidated all the problems in further developing the local industries. In this way, he presented the programmatic guidelines, to which our local industries must always adhere, and provided an opportunity for bringing turns in implementing the party's policy on the local industries.

Upholding the wise leadership of the great leader and our party, we made great efforts to renovate and expand local industrial plants, modernize technology and equipment, and build stronger resource bases in local areas, thus increasing the production of various people's consumer goods. We, first of all, positively waged a struggle to consolidate the materialistic and technological basis of the local industrial plants. We have vigorously carried out the work of building repair bases and machine and equipment production bases serving the local industries in order to complete inadequate production processes in local industrial plants and to renovate and modernize outdated equipment and production processes using new technology. As a result, garment plants, cloth plants, and knit wear plants in South Hwanghae Province, Kaesong, and South Hamgyong, Kangwon, and South Pyongan Provinces, and all the other areas across the country were equipped with modern cloth processing equipment, weaving machines, and knitting equipment, and their fabric production and cloth processing capacities were significantly increased as a result.

The 6 July ceramic ware plant and the [words indistinct] processing plant were built respectively at the (Kyongsong) region and the (Songgang) Sepo region; a seaweed processing base, at Onjin County, a coastal area; a kimchi plant, in Pyongyang; and new food production bases, at Pukchong, Anbyon, Kosan regions. We also newly built or expanded scores of sodium carbonate, caustic soda, and other small and medium-sized chemical plants in South Hamgyong Province and various other provinces, and local areas have been able to produce and supply basic chemical products, lacquer, paint, and other chemical products as a result.

To rapidly develop the local industries, we also made great efforts to mobilize resources and materials in each area to the utmost and to efficiently utilize them. Our party built local industries in order to positively mobilize and utilize all the reserves and resources in local areas, thus producing more people's consumer goods of various sorts.

To thoroughly implement the principle of developing the central industries based upon resources at local areas, we, as the great leader instructed, continuously waged a struggle to build bases for raw material cultivation of more than 200 chongbo [one chongbo equals about 10,000 square meters] in each city and county and of more than 50 chongbo in each food plant. As a result, more than 2,000 chongbo of bases for raw material cultivation were built last year, thus increasing the production of resources for local industries.

Last year, we made great efforts to increase the number of goods produced in local industrial plants and to significantly improve their quality, and great achievements were brought about. [end recording]

He also pointed out a need to uphold the policies of the Government of the Republic, which considers it the most important principle on its activities to endlessly improving the people's lives; to efficiently utilize state investment; to further strengthen the material and technological basis of the local industries; and to normalize production on a high level in all the local industrial plants, thus positively contributing to improving the people's lives.

Next, Deputy Kim Po-pi participated in the discussions at the meeting.

She talked about the agricultural workers of Ponghwa Cooperative Farm in Kangdong County who achieved results last year in overfulfilling the agricultural production plan. She said that this was achieved by upholding the great leader's on-the-spot teaching and vigorously carrying out the struggle, thus, farming was carried out scientifically and technologically by building sprinkler systems in corn fields. She continued to say:

[Begin Kim recording] All results achieved last year at our farm were wholly due to the consideration of the great leader who visited our farm; brilliantly elucidated the future of the farm; and who gave tens of thousands of won so that precious agricultural materials could be supplied at the appointed time without any problems. [applause]

Nevertheless, the fatherly leader attributed all results and honor that was achieved on this farm to us. On 27 November 1990, the great leader who paid another visit to our farm, understood in detail the situation of last year's farming and expressed great satisfaction over the increase of harvesting of corn per chongbo [one chongbo equals 2.45 acres], regardless of the bad weather.

He also taught that if soil levelling is carried out the yield of corn and rice per chongbo can be enhanced substantially.

The teaching of the great leader is a programmatic guideline which scientifically perceives the actual situation of our country's agricultural production and which most accurately reveals the road toward decisively enhancing the production of food grain crops.

We must bear in mind the teaching of the great leader and we must be of the same mind with the workers, office workers who have vigorously launched into the soil relocation battle. Therefore, as a result of vigorously carrying out the struggle amidst the cold weather, up until late January of this year, we achieved the result of completing an overall soil relocation in the corn fields that amount to some 150 chongbo. [applause]

In the glorious land where the great leader's immortal revolutionary exploits are being elucidated, currently all the members of our farm are overfilled with the firm

faith and optimism of harvesting over 10 tons of food grain crops per chongbo in the fields and we are not able to refrain from infinite affection and loyalty towards the fatherly leader who kindly led us toward a bigger victory and feat.

Comrade deputies, it is being forecasted that this year the Government of the Republic will spend more of its state funds in the rural economy field than last year.

This year the functionaries in the agricultural field and members of our farm are faced with the heavy task of making the great leader and dear comrade leader happy by achieving a bumper crop through scientific and technological farming which is in accordance with the demand of the chuche farming method.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: If soil levelling is carried out and the farmland is reclaimed, harvesting of food grain crops can be increased substantially.

As a master who is responsible for the country's rice chest, I must deeply bear in mind this heavy duty and must further vigorously carry out the struggle to thoroughly fulfill the programmatic teaching which the great leader put forth in his New Year address this year and when he gave on-the-spot guidance of our farm.

More imminently, we will concentrate our strength on firmly growing corn humus pot seedlings and cold-bed rice seedlings so that replanting corn humus pot seedlings and rice transplanting can be carried out qualitatively at the appropriate time, thus we will carry out weeding in a lightning-fashion without the slightest delay.

We realized the building of sprinkler systems in all corn fields that carried out soil relocation and entrusted the chemical fertilizer and organic fertilizer according to the demand of the chuche farming method to the related departments. Also by carrying out the struggle to use microelement fertilizer we will make efforts to produce more than 10 tons of rice and corn per chongbo. Therefore, we will work to increase the production of vegetables by 1.2 times; fruits by 1.5 times; and silkworm cocoons by 1.3 times that of last year.

We will solve the meat problem by properly maintaining animal breeding facilities and enhancing the ratio of such nongrain crop feed as amaranthuses, pumpkin, and [word indistinct] and will increase the breeding of young pigs 1.3 times and the production of pork 1.2 times by improving pig breeding management. Upon completing rice harvesting work we will concentrate our efforts on soil relocation work on rice paddy fields and complete the work by the end of October without fail.

Following the model set by the [word indistinct] 14 tractor operator families who have been designated by the great leader as forerunners for rural mechanization, we will lift high the flames of creating mechanized work teams and mechanized farms so that all cooperative farm members can operate tractors in the near futures. Thus, we will realize the comprehensive mechanization in the countryside ahead of schedule.

I will vigorously wage political work and consolidate economic organizational work among cooperative farm members in conformity with the demands of the Chongsan-ri spirit and the Chongsan-ri method so as to further enhance the vitality of our superior sub-workteam contract system and workteam [word indistinct]. At the same time, I will regularize the workteam [word indistinct] summing-up system [words indistinct], thoroughly establish the workteam prime cost calculation system, and properly consolidate the struggle for conservation. Thus, this year I will lower the prime cost of agricultural products by more than 5 percent over last year. In this way, I am firmly determined to respectfully give a report of loyalty, a report of glory, to the fatherly leader by thoroughly implementing the programmatic task set forth by the great leader in his socialist rural theses and the on-the-spot teaching he gave to our cooperative farm. [applause] [end recording]

Next, Deputy Yang Yong-kon [as heard] participated in discussion.

[Begin Yang recording] Comrade deputies: Feeling proud of the fact that last year, the first year of the nineties, the state budget was correctly executed under the wise leadership of the party and, thus, a brilliant success was registered in socialist construction and also recognizing that this year's state budget, as well, has been correctly compiled so that the party's line and policy of further promoting the standard of the people's material and cultural life in conformity with the demands of socialism by firmly giving priority to the leading sectors of the national economy and, thus, by regularizing production at a high level, I fully support and consent to it. [applause]

The Government of the Republic, which has consistently adhered to our party's policy of firmly giving priority to the power industry over other industries as a firm principle in socialist construction, earmarked a large amount of state funds for the power industry sector last year, too. As a result of this, last year the construction of Wiwon power plant and Naesonggang No. 5 power plant was completed, and the construction of (Nangang) power plant, East Pyongyang thermal power plant, December thermal power plant, and other large-size hydraulic and thermal power plants was vigorously carried out. Also, last year new small and medium hydraulic power plants were built. As a result, the power base of the country has been further expanded and strengthened.

Last year, in our complex, too, electric generation facilities were further readjusted and strengthened and its independent fuel base was firmly built. As a result, our complex registered the success of producing electric power more than its (?generating capacity). The success attained last year in our electric power sector is precisely thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who set

forth the line of founding the chuche-oriented and self-reliant elector power industry and who has wisely led the struggle for its realization. It is also a proud success caused by the proper combination of our party's chuche-oriented financial policy and the independent and people-oriented state budget. [applause]

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The workers and technicians of the power industrial sector should maintain, augment, and perform facilities management well with the existing power plants to operate all generators at full capacity so that we can increase the production of electricity to the utmost degree.

Last year, as the great leader taught us, we increased the production of electricity, giving priority to it, by maintaining and augmenting power generation facilities, improving the management of facilities, and operating the generators at full capacity. We vigorously conducted political work so that the producing masses may all launch themselves into facilities maintenance work, discussed the specific measures and methods to effectively conduct the maintenance work for the electricity production facilities, and effectively conducted the economic organizational work to realize it.

We secured sufficient supply of maintenance labor, maintenance materials, and spare parts for maintenance for ourselves according to the rules of the power plant, and by conducting the technological preparation work with a view to the future, we placed emphasis on completing maintenance ahead of schedule, ensuring the quality of it at a high standard. We upheld the slogan "What the party decides, we will do" as our unshakable faith, burned our hearts with loyalty to the party and the leader, and waged heroic struggle, thereby proving once again that there is as much inner reserve as we want and that we can maintain production at a high level.

Last year we increased and normalized the production of electricity also by ensuring a steady supply of fuel for ourselves. Last year we placed emphasis on tunneling and stripping to increase the coal production capacity of the coal mines under the complex in a prospective manner, vigorously conducted the high-speed tunneling movement among the colliers, and actively introduced the advanced mining methods and new techniques so that all coal mines could carry out the coal production plan.

At the same time, we provided the power plants with a firm material and technological base, heat-producing facilities used for boilers, new machines we made, such as coal-sorting machines, for use for the operation of boilers, so that we could lower the consumption of coal and increase combustion efficiency. This enabled us to save 20,000 tons of coal. As a result, we lowered cost by 2 percent of the plan for the complex last year, overfulfilling the profit plan by 13 percent and the state budget revenue plan by 9 percent.

All this success our complex attained last year was entirely attributable to the fact that the great leader and our party defined the power industry as the priority work of our people's economy, solved all the problems in increasing the production of electricity as a priority, and led our Pukchang working class along the road of upswing and innovations. [applause] [end recording]

The speaker continued and vowed that he would uphold the great leader's New Year's address and the task he set forth for this year and normalize the electricity production at a high level, thoroughly mobilizing the producing masses' creative strength and wisdom and effectively conducting the economic organizational work and production command work, and actively contribute to increasing the ultimate state income.

Speaking next was deputy Chang Hong-chun:

[Begin Chang Hong-chun recording] Comrade deputies: I fully support and approve of this year's state budget which is submitted for deliberation at this meeting, admitting that it is accurately projected in conformity with our people's will and [word indistinct] to effect a continuous upsurge in socialist construction under the banner of the chuche idea and to effect greater advance in realizing the cause of fatherland reunification. [applause]

The success registered in our [word indistinct] sector last year is the brilliant result of the wise leadership of our party and constitutes the clear evidence of the correctness of our party's financial policy and the solidness and vitality of the state budget. [applause]

Last year, the great leader bestowed the great trust of seeing to it that our working class of Nagwon is responsible for producing and supplying water pumps necessary for the construction of the 2,000-ri waterway in the west coast area. Receiving the militant task from the great leader our working class of Nagwon unanimously rose up in the struggle to implement the great leader's teachings. It was by no means easy to produce a large number of water pumps, which are large in size and [word indistinct] before the farming season. This was not only a work load which would take more than six months, but was also a very difficult task which had to be carried out while fulfilling our primary production plan. It takes more than three months even to manufacture such water pump spare parts as [words indistinct]. Because of such a situation, we encountered many difficulties in producing water pumps in a timely manner. However, we could not appeal to higher organs for this, nor could we wait until all conditions for producing water pumps were met. If we had waited until all conditions for producing water pumps were met, we could not have implemented the great leader's teaching on producing water pumps.

Because we are a revolutionary party member who [words indistinct] the fatherly leader's [words indistinct] in the arduous period right after the Fatherland Liberation War, we could not simply wait until higher echelons

guaranteed all conditions for producing water pumps. We mingled with workers and technicians and appealed to them to fulfill without fail the production quota of water pumps with our own efforts. Responding to our appeal, the working class of Nagwon began to vigorously rise up in the struggle to implement the production quota of water pumps, vowing to display the spirit and fighting spirit displayed by the 10 party members of Nagwon who struggled with all their might for the party and the leader in the past.

Thus, we could solve many problems that arose in the production of water pumps and [words indistinct] However, we had many difficult problems in the course of producing water pumps. At that time, the great leader, after acquainting himself with the status of performance of water pumps manufactured by us and expressing satisfaction with their performance, highly appreciated and encouraged us, saying that the working class of Nagwon did a good job. [applause]

Infinitely encouraged by this great trust and consideration from the great leader and the party, we more vigorously waged the battle of loyalty to accelerate the production of water pumps. Firmly vowing to properly carry out our work, following the oath that our 10 party members of Nagwon made before the fatherly leader in the past, we produced water pumps by thoroughly abiding by the demands of technical specifications and standard manufacturing procedures. We further enhanced the quality of [words indistinct] by displaying collectivist wisdom and strength [words indistinct], and thus we fully displayed the work style of carrying out our assigned work with the attitude of being the master. In this way, on the occasion of the significant February festive days of last year, we completely manufactured 53 large-type water pumps which were needed in the construction of the 2,000-ri long waterway in the west coast area. Thus, last year we brilliantly performed the work assigned by the great leader and greatly contributed to carrying out the grand nature-remaking project for the irrigation system in rural areas. This is not only an expression of the infinite loyalty of our working class of Nagwon to the party and the leader, but is also an evidence of the might of the machine industry of our country. [end recording]

The speaker, after mentioning the fact that last year the working class of Nagwon designed and manufactured various kinds of modern production machinery, stressed the need to produce more oxygen separators, excavators, and [word indistinct] and supply them to the key industry sector and the extraction industry sector by further modernizing the production process and, thus, by regularizing production on the basis of the already attained successes.

Next, Deputy Yi Yon-chol participated in the discussion. Referring to the fact that builders and soldiers of the People's Army, who were mobilized for the construction of Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex, effected the innovation of outstandingly completing numerous construction projects in the complex in a short period of time with our own strength, technology, facilities, and materials, Deputy Yi Yon-chol continued:

[Begin Yi recording] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who has devoted his all to the people, personally visited the Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex on 24 November of last year to give an on-the-spot guidance. While giving the on-the-spot guidance the great leader bestowed great trust and love upon our builders and soldiers of the People's Army. [applause]

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il personally solved all problems which arose in the building of Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex and generously gave benevolent encouragement to the entire party and the whole country to vigorously support the building of our complex. Greatly encouraged by our party's great trust and concern, builders and soldiers of the People's Army displayed mass heroism in the building of the complex and, thus, concentrated all of their efforts on the struggle to effect miracles and innovations and to expedite the operation of the potassic fertilizer plant.

As the construction project of the complex was successfully carried out, we also concentrated our efforts on guranteeing the technological preparations for operation of the complex and the successful testing of all production processes in the complex. We first of all concentrated our complex-wide efforts on completing chuche-oriented [word indistinct] method which uses raw materials of our country, not [words indistinct].

Workers and technicians who rose up in the struggle to complete the chuche-oriented [word indistinct] discovered irrational elements and properly remodeled the [word indistinct] machine which supplies pulverized coal, established mobile and automatic burning devices, and created the new technology of automatically controlling the flames in the blast furnace. Thus, they have registered great success in completing the chuche-oriented [word indistinct].

Last year, upholding the decision of the 17th plenary meeting of the sixth party Central Committee we not only found out conservation reserves in the designing stage while giving priority to design over operation, but also introduced some 1,200 technological innovation suggestions to the operation. Thus, last year we conserved 15,000 tons of steel, 9,000 tons of cement, and 8,000 cubic meters of wood, thereby giving a lot of benefits to the state.

The Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex, which is being built as another great edifice for the prosperity of the country and for the happiness of the people of the era of the Workers' Party and as a chuche-oriented grand chemical industrial base, is the result of the wise leadership of the great leader and our party. [applause]

Comrade deputies: Today the builders and soldiers of the People's Army who are rising up in the construction

of the Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex are faced with the heavy but honorable task of repaying the great expectations of the party, the leader, the fatherland, and the people by realizing, without fail, the construction goals they have vowed to carry out before the party while upholding the militant tasks set forth by the great leader in his New Year Address of this year.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Builders and soldiers of the People's Army who have participated in major plant construction projects should achieve, without fail, the construction goals that they have decided on before the party by displaying patriotism and mass heroism. Thus, they should repay the great expectations of the party and the people.

Upholding the party's policy of concentrating efforts on construction work and effectively utilizing the funds invested in the basic state construction sector we will complete the first-phase construction of the Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex by vigorously waging the speed battle, by making the most of the experience attained in the trial operation of the calcinator which has already been built, and, thus, by completing the construction of the remaining three calcinators within the period designated by the party. Thus, we will give a report of loyalty and glory to the great leader and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. [applause]

We will firmly give priority to design, further accelerate the industrialization and modernization of construction, boldly introduce new construction methods and generalize them, increase the assembling speed three times more, and vigorously wage a conservation struggle. In this way we will conserve building materials, including steel materials, cement, and wood by more than 10 percent.

Along with this, we will improve the irregular facilities and technological processes that have appeared in the trial operation of [word indistinct], and we will complete our chuche-type [word indistinct] method so that the production of potash fertilizer can start as soon as possible.

According to the demand of the Taean work system, I will carefully organize the economic organizational work and actively arouse the producer masses toward the great revolutionary upsurge so that the might of the chuche-type industry once again can be displayed. I also firmly promise to actively contribute to realizing the far-reaching economic construction plan of the great leader and our party. [applause] [end recording]

Next, Deputy Yo Kon-yo participated in the discussion.

[Begin Yo recording] Comrade deputies: I believe that last year our country's state budget was executed successfully according to the party's policy-oriented demand of further safeguarding and promoting the people's lives and health and at the same time strengthening the country's political and economic might. I also recognize that this year's state budget was correctly formed to ultimately guarantee the socialist great march movement and further turn its funds toward the health field so that our chuche-type health system can be further consolidated and developed to extend more medical benefits to the people. I, therefore, wholly support and approve this. [applause]

In the Government of the Republic, expenditures for health work increased by 105.2 percent over the previous year so that hospitals equipped with modern facilities can be built in rural and urban areas. Also by further reinforcing the doctors' gradually taking charge of their regions, the benefits to the people of free medical treatment were further carried out satisfactorily.

The true superiority of our country's socialist system in which the people are regarded as most precious and in which everything in society serves the popular working masses is concentratedly expressed by the fact that the country is wholly responsible for and looks after the people's lives and health and that all members of the society are able to play their roles and be responsible as if they were the masters.

Our country is possessed with the most people-oriented and advanced laws—such as the people's health law, the law on rearing and indoctrinating preschool children, and the environmental protection law—and a health system in which is summed up the party's chuche-type health ideology. Therefore, all the people are leading healthy lives and do not have to worry about getting medical treatment from the day they are born to the day they die. Also, the communist-style policy of guaranteeing all expenses by the state is being carried out.

Amid the great kindness of the great leader and dear comrade leader, our North Hamgyong Province People's Hospital is [words indistinct] equipped with some 800 beds and modern facilities, making it possible to provide medical service free of charge to the people through the enormous state fund. In the [word indistinct] department where I work, hundreds of medical specialists, who are wholeheartedly treating all inpatients, have been reeducated and trained annually.

Most of all, during the past, we highly upheld the great leader and dear comrade leader's health ideology and policy and highly displayed the devoted service spirit toward the people, thus putting our efforts into improving the work of the medical service.

In our hospital, we firmly adhered to our party's most superior policy of carrying out preventive medicine and examined the sanitary situation of the tens of thousands of workers in the plants and enterprises in the province, including the Musan Mining Complex and the people's living quarters, in one year. We also actively carried out various on-the-spot medical services to prevent diseases in advance and revived critical patients, thus sending them to the socialist construction sites.

In our department where we specialize in [word indistinct], efforts have been made in studying and accepting

scientific and effective diagnostic and treatment methods. Therefore, last year alone, some 50 cases of new methods in diagnosis and surgery were applied, thus achieving results in scientifically diagnosing and treating patients.

As was taught by the great leader and dear comrade leader, we must use to the utmost the superiority of oriental and Western medicine so that the struggle to establish a measure to treat our people in accordance with their physical characteristics can be carried out vigorously.

Our hospital, by properly combining the diagnostic and treatment methods of oriental and Western medicines, not only enhanced the effectiveness of diagnosis and treatment, but also manufactured approximately 40 kinds of oriental medicines with high efficacy and [word indistinct] used in cardiac disorder and efficacious vitamin C [word indistinct] and used them in the treatment of patients. Thus, our hospital registered great success in medical treatment and preventive measures.

Upon receiving the report that we were manufacturing [words indistinct] and vitamin C to use them in medical treatment and preventive measures, the great leader expressed deep satisfaction and bestowed upon us the great trust and benevolent love of sending thanks to us. [applause]

Last year, being infinitely encouraged by the great leader's great trust and concern, the research group of our hospital not only manufactured over 20 kinds of medicines with high efficacy in [words indistinct] and met our hospital's demands, but also sent them to many hospitals in our province. In this way, we manufactured numerous medicines and medical equipment with our own strength and actively used them in medical treatment and preventive measures. Thus, we not only shortened the time of the medical treatment and further enhanced its efficacy, but also gave the profit, which amounted to as much as 1,120,000 won last year alone, to the state.

In the days of more furiously holding aloft the flames of the [word indistinct] movement with the spirit of serving the people, medical functionaries at our hospital have come to deem it a great honor to offer their blood and flesh for the treatment of patients with the lofty sense of duty of assuming responsibility for the people's life and health, and, thus, to restore the people's health. They have also grown to become the revolutionary intellectuals and the eternal companions of our party, who trust and follow the great leader and the dear comrade leader only, being loyal and dutiful to them.

All successes registered in the public health sector in the past are a brilliant result of the wise leadership of the great leader—who always shows infinite love and concern for the public health work for the people—and our party. They also constitute the mighty demonstration of the uncomparable superiority of the socialist state budget system of our country. [applause]

Today, our people enjoy longevity in good health, thanks to the people-oriented public health policy of the Workers Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic. However, in South Korea, the people are undergoing all sorts of sufferings due to the puppet clique's antipeople policy. This is indeed deplorable. The South Korean puppets are frantically accelerating preparations for aggression and war by earmarking the biggest share of the taxes collected from the people for military expenses. They have also turned the whole land of South Korea into a society of the rich-get-richer and the poor-get-poorer, a den of diseases, and a land of pollution by constantly raising the prices of medicines, medical treatment costs, and commodities.

In South Korea today, such miserable situations as patients being kicked out of operating rooms if they cannot afford to pay for treatment, or patients being taken hostage, or even dead bodies not being released from the hospital until the family pays, occur frequently. Whenever we think of these deplorable situations occurring in South Korea today, we cannot but feel how superior is our country's socialist public health system provided by the great leader and our party. At the same time, we come to have the firmer determination to achieve the country's reunification at the earliest possible date. [end recording]

The speaker continued to stress the need for the public health sector, not only to strengthen the district-doctor system and to actively ensure medical conveniences for the people by more effectively utilizing the public health expenses earmarked by the state, but also to further enhance the superiority of our country's socialist public health system by enhancing the medical services' professional level one step higher and, thus, by providing the people with more benefits from our free medical system.

Next, Deputy Chu Chol-song participated in the discussion. He pointed to the fact that last year the working class of Komdok provided the foundation that makes it possible to increase vastly the mining output of ores by giving priority to tunning work and, thus, by building more ore-cutting sites where good quality ores are buried. Then he continued:

[Begin recording] The entire working class in our mine complex regularized production at a high level since the beginning of the year amid great concern and support from all sectors in the country, holding aloft the slogan, "What the party decides, we will do." As a result, the working class of the complex performed the proud exploits of having overfulfilled the quota [words indistinct] and provided a firm foundation which can occupy with certainty the [word indistinct] production goal of this year. [applause]

The brilliant success attained by the working class of Komdok is the noble fruition produced by the wise leadership of the great leader and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and their great concern. It is also the

proud victory which shows the revolutionary mettle and boundless creative ability of our working class. [applause]

Comrade deputies: The working class of Komdok today is faced with the heavy but honorable task of fulfilling, without fail, the [word indistinct] production goal set forth by the party by effecting constant revolutionary upsurges in mineral production.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: By firmly giving priority this year to the extraction industry sector, the electric power industry sector, and the railway transportation sector and by concentrating great efforts on the development of the metal industry we should see to it that new innovations are effected in these sectors.

This year we will regularize production at a high level by effectively utilizing the state funds earmarked for our enterprise and the existing production foundation. Thus, we will effect a great upsurge in the production of nonferrous metals. We have the possibility for fulfilling this year's production task without fail. Our miners' morale is very high, and the material and technological foundation of the enterprise has been firmly provided.

As the working class of Kangson furiously lifted up the flames of the great upsurge of Chollima through the production of ore, upholding the great leader and our party, in the fifties, our miners of Komdok are today waging a do-or-die battle of loyalty with the firmer determination to stand at the head of the struggle to create the speed of the nineties.

The problem rests with how properly our functionaries will plan and coordinate economic organizational work and production discipline in conformity with the surging revolutionary mettle of miners. We will first of all mingle with miners and strengthen the indoctrination in loyality and duty to our party. Thus, we will see to it that all miners effect a great innovation in the production of nonferrous metals by highly displaying mass heroism and infinite loyalty to the party and the leader.

We will accelerate the construction of four vertical shafts, including the 12th [word indistinct] shaft and the 24th vertical shaft—the construction of which is now being accelerated at a final stage—by firmly giving priority to pit construction and tunneling work. To see to it that the production potentiality provided in the Komdok mine proves its worth, we will continue the struggle to [word indistinct], improve, and modernize the [word indistinct] production plant and, thus, will have all production processes operate at full capacity.

We will introduce large-type pit [word indistinct] (?structure) by waging a bold and broad operation. We will enhance the rate of utilization of various types of mining cars, including hydraulic mining cars which have high productivity, so as to increase the rate of [words indistinct] per (?ore-cutting site] 1.3 times more. We will also increase the (?intermediate) hauling capability of minerals 1.3 times more by supplementing more ore-hauling facilities, including [word indistinct] cars and mine cars. Thus, we will thoroughly implement the party's policy of [word indistinct] in large quantities, hauling minerals in large quantities, and disposing of them in large quantities.

Upholding the party's militant call for us to take part in the struggle to produce-and-save-the-most, we will make more profit for the state by vigorously launching the model produce-and-save-more work team movement, by properly practicing the independent accounting system according to the demands of the Taean work system, by strengthening the daily production-and-finance critique system, and increasing the production of ore with less labor, materials, and funds.

Upholding the party's leadership, we will create the Kumgol speed of the nineties through our heroic struggle in the spirit and verve demonstrated by our people during the era of the great Chollima upsurge, overcoming the ordeals and difficulties we run across on our own, on the strength of our continued renovation and continued advancement.

As one of the functionaries bearing responsibilities for the production of nonferrous metal before the party and state, I will meticulously preplan and supervise the economic organizational work and command over production with a high degree of revolution-mindedness and fighting power and thereby normalizing the production at a high level so as to have the shouts of "Manse" for victory endlessly reverberate in Kumgol, the land of glory where the great leader's and the dear comrade leader's leadership accomplishment shine.

Finally, I firmly pledge that I will make a report of loyalty, report of glory, to the great leader and the dear comrade leader by making our Kumdok working class, which is burning with the boundless loyalty to the party and leader, occupy the target in this year's plan by effecting revolutionary upsurge in production of ore. [applause] [end recording]

Next, Deputy Kim Yon-ho spoke.

[Begin Kim recording] Dear Comrade deputies: Considering that last year's state budget firmly financially guaranteed socialist economic construction in the first year of the nineties and that this year's state budget, too, has been compiled correctly as practical and ready for mobilization budget, so as to accelerate socialist economic construction and improve the people's standard of living even further in a way that corresponds to the demands of the current situation and the developing revolution, I fully support and agree to the execution of last year's state budget and this year's state budget. [applause]

Our Kangnyong Veterans' Foodstuffs Plant which, upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's teachings on the need to continually bring the revolution to full flower, has carried out the plan in the national economy and financial plan without hitch over the past 20 years, has fulfilled last year the plan for the gross

industrial product by 16.9 percent and the state budgetary revenues by 35.9 percent, by effectively mobilizing and using the local raw materials and materials and by preplanning and supervising the enterprise financial management work.

Such a success is clearly an expression of the true superiority of our country's socialist system by which the state takes care of the veterans' works and life, the solidness and vitality of our country's independent and popular state budget. [applause]

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Our comrade veterans who shed their blood to defend [word indistinct] and fatherland and brought the revolution to full flower in the past, should always struggle and make tireless efforts with a resolve to continually bring the revolution to full flower today and in the future for the boundless prosperity of the fatherland.

Upholding the great leader's teachings, the veterans at our plant have risen up as one in the struggle to organize a raw material base on their own, instead of looking to the state in anticipation of supplies of raw materials and materials.

The great leader long ago taught that the foodstuffs plants should vigorously stage a struggle to set up bases larger than 50 chongbo [99 acres] for [word indistinct] raw materials and produce even more raw materials of various kinds for local industry.

Upholding the great leader's teachings, we staged a battle of reclaiming lands in a remote, mountainous area about several dozens of li away from the seat of the county administration in a bid to get our hands on tracts of new land. During the struggle, we led our life the way the anti-Japanese guerrillas fought, in tents set up in the mountain, feeling the same things the [word indistinct] soldiers would have felt and calming ourselves down.

Nevertheless, it was not an easy enterprise for the veterans to set up a raw material base in a treacherous area on a mountain. We could hardly make a dent in the work of digging into frozen solid ground to remove roots of trees and grasses and sometimes we found it hard for several men to pull out a great tree root.

Members of the cooperative farms and agricultural workers from neighboring areas who came to help us after realizing how we were struggling held our hands in theirs, wondering whether it was right for us, the veterans who shed blood in battles during the past Fatherland Liberation War, to work this hard, suggesting that they would help us during their spare time and that we stop the hard working.

We could not heed their advice, however. The small tract of land we were trying to reclaim was part of the fatherland we, upholding the order of the comrade supreme commander who urged us not to yield to the enemy even an inch of land, defended with bloodshedding during the Fatherland Liberation War.

Renewing our rock-firm resolve to reclaim and maintain the land with sweat, as it is such a valuable land that we defended it with our bloodshedding, we the disabled veterans have managed to set up a base on which to grow raw materials after undergoing such difficulties as removing tree roots from frozen soil and melting the frozen land with bonfires.

We, who have come to cherish, through work and life, [word indistinct] of the rock-firm faith of the fallen anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters who could do anything once they decided to do it, have managed to build a fecund 80-chongbo base of crop materials, a persimmon orchard of about 10 chongbo, and [word indistinct], by the end of last year.

As a result, we have managed to produce about 500 tons of sweet potatoes, about 10 tons of chestnuts, and a variety of raw materials for foodstuffs every year. We also have stored a large quantity of seaweed grown in the West Sea.

Thanks to this, we have managed to bring up the percentage of foodstuffs made out of local raw materials and materials from 50 percent to 86 percent last year.

Today, our plant, which has depended on the state, is now able to settle accounts with its own income and let the state take in the surplus.

We have tenaciously carried out the work of laying a firm material and technological foundation in the plant while normalizing the production on the strength of our own firm local material base as taught by our party.

We have set out arranging a new process designed to produce an assortment of children's foodstuffs, including [word indistinct], while building a single-story workshop building with thousands of floor space.

Mingling with the employees, I concentrated on political work to inculcate into our people the party's slogan that "what the party decides, we will do" and preplanned and supervised [words indistinct]. As a result, we managed to complete the workshop that produces nutrition-rich foodstuffs for children within a short period of time, only a few months, and then began producing an assortment of children's nutrition-rich foodstuffs.

Not content with this, we have continually carried out a vigorous project of modernizing all the plant's production. Consequently, we changed the production process into a conveyor-system, one which is capable of guaranteeing [words indistinct].

As a result, we have managed to have a hard, difficult process mechanized or semi-automated, upgraded [words indistinct] from 92 percent to 98 percent, and raised the standards of all the foodstuffs to the level of [word indistinct].

Today, our plant is producing an assortment of foodstuffs, including [word indistinct], with locally supplied raw materials, and supplying them to the people and children

in the nurseries and kindergartens. We have also been able to supply alcohol to [name indistinct], scientific research institutes, and public health institutions.

While accelerating the modernization of the plant's workshop, we have concentrated great effort on the management of asset and [word indistinct]. As a result, we have effected changes in the general enterprise management and thoroughly implemented the party's policy on [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The speaker continued about his determination this year to increase the quantity of products at the raw material base and produce a great deal more tasty foodstuffs of various descriptions by more thoroughly implementing the party's policy of normalizing the production based on locally supplied raw materials, a policy whose justness and vitality has fully been proven by past practice.

Deputy Choe Sin-chol spoke next, talking about the fact that the transportation workers at Chongju locomotive transportation unit last year overhauled cargoes demanded by many sectors of the national economy by vigorously launching the 18 May no-accident, on-time, traction-standard-surpassing movement, upholding the decisions made at the 17th plenary meeting of the Sixth party Central Committee, which stressed the need to vigorously stage the produce-and-save-more movement. He then said:

[Begin Choe recording] We have aggressively staged a struggle to ensure no-accident, on-time traction.

Upholding the great leader's teaching on [word indistinct], we established rock-firm discipline and worked in accordance with the demand of chuche. Thus, we made active efforts to eliminate accidents caused by [word indistinct].

We manufactured about 5,700 reserve (?parts) by ourselves to carry with us in locomotives and carefully repaired and carried out maintenance work for locomotives by strictly abiding by regulations for repair work and thus prevented accidents involving locomotives in operation.

To prevent accidents from occurring in several hundred railway crossings in our sections, we visited plants and enterprises located along the railway and carried out an advertisement campaign to explain the issue of preventing railway accidents with the support of pertinent party organizations.

During the past period, our work team carried out propaganda and explanation work for 289,000 residents in communities along the railway. As the result, a number of railway crossings were rebuilt according to regulations and detour courses were built. Thus, the number of accidents involving automobiles and tractors was reduced drastically.

Our work team ran 2,950,000 km on the railway, the same distance of going around the earth 74 times, without any accident while overfulfilling the assigned cargo-freighting goals each year for 28 years since the work team was formed. Thus, our work team attained success. [applause]

The success attained by our work team in the past is the result of the wise leadership of our party and great leader, who saw to it that a great amount of the state budget was invested in reinforcing the material and technological foundation of the railway by stressing that railway transport is high precedence work in national economy. This success vigorously demonstrates the great vitality of 5.18 no-accident, on-time, traction-standard-surpassing movement advanced by the party. [applause]

Upholding the idea and intention of the party, we have vigorously carried out the 5.18 no-accident, on-time, traction-standard-surpassing movement. Under the communist slogan, "One for all, all for one," we gathered all work teams to discuss how to help infrastructural work teams. We decided to turn over our locomotives to the infrastructural work team. On the day of turning over the locomotives, our work team polished and polished again the three letters, "The Red Banner" put on the locomotive.

I wished for the locomotive with the letters of "the Red Banner" to run more vigorously to reflect our party's lofty intent to make locomotives vigorously run at the van of the ranks by flying the Red Banner, a flag of communists. I was deeply impressed by work team members wholeheartedly polishing the letters.

Thus, we turned our locomotive, which contained our sweat and labor, over to the infrastructural work team and accepted old locomotives. After receiving the old locomotives, we made them new and turned them over to the infrastructural work team. Thus, we encouraged all locomotive engineers to rise in the work of [word indistinct].

In this course, firm faith to endlessly follow the party and the leader and to share our destiny with the party forever took deep root in the hearts of our locomotive team members. The spirit of unconditionally implementing the party's policy overwhelmed all locomotive units. They effected a new revolutionary turning point by transporting 23 million tons more of cargo than last year's traction standard following the (?model) of the exemplary locomotive engineers of Chongjin.

Through practical experience, we came to more keenly realize that when all railway functionaries rise in implementing the national economy by cherishing the sense of endless devotion to the party, to the revolution, to the fatherland and to the people, and inspire the masses, a new revolutionary turning point can be registered in railway transport and boundless transportation reserves can be discovered.

Comrade deputies: This year our railway transportation sector is faced with the grave and glorious task to smoothly ensure the increasing transportation demand

in national economy by effecting a new revolutionary turning point in railway transport work in accordance with the demand of the new higher stage of its construction. Thus, we should contribute to strengthening the self-reliant national economy.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Production is transportation and transportation is production. Unless transportation problems are smoothly resolved, production cannot be normalized in various domains of national economy and production and construction cannot be rapidly developed.

Upholding the great leader's teaching on smoothly ensuring transportation by giving precedence to transport over production, our locomotive engineers will transport more cargo required for socialist construction by cherishing such spirit as displayed during the Fatherland Liberation War in the past and the Chollima great upsurge under the slogan, "What the party decides, we will do." We will excellently fulfill the valuable missions assigned by the party and the people.

By more vigorously carrying out the 5.18 no-accident, on-time, traction-standard-surpassing movement whose justness and vitality were fully demonstrated by practice, we will aggressively carry out the struggle to transport more cargo required for socialist construction.

By putting up higher goals in compliance with increasing demand for transportation and by implementing these goals with consciousness, we will enhance the revolutionary zeal of locomotive engineers and will transport 600 to 700 tons more cargo than traction standard.

At the same time, we will establish firm disciplines in (?transportation) work and wage the struggle to thoroughly [word indistinct].

By securing three-month reserve parts and repairing bad freight cars, we will ensure full operation of locomotives and increase the average daily rail time of locomotives by 2.2 times by enhancing its (?efficiency) and [word indistinct].

By closely linking the movement for production increase and conservation put forward by the party with the 5.18 no-accident, on-time and traction-standard-surpassing movement, we will vigorously carry out the strategic struggle to transport 200,000 tons more of cargo by the end of the year and will reduce the [word indistinct] consumption rate by 14 percent and [word indistinct] by 11 percent.

With lofty loyalty to the party and the leader and with the spirit of devoted service for the fatherland and the people, we will demonstrate the lofty [word indistinct] in implementing the assigned revolutionary tasks and will always mingle with the masses to inspire their revolutionary zeal and creative activeness so as to fulfill the assigned transportation tasks in the third seven-year plan. I firmly resolve to repay with loyalty the trust and benevolence by the great leader and our party. [applause] [end recording]

Next, Deputy Pang Yong-hui participated in the discussion.

She pointed out that the Pyongyang Clothing Plant last year supplemented and installed modern facilities by upholding the party's policy for light industry revolution and increased production space. In addition, this plant increased production of various clothes which correspond to the sense of beauty of the time and to the people's taste. Thus, the plant overfulfilled the national economy plan and the state budget payment plan. She then continued:

[Begin Pang recording] Comrade deputies: This year's state budget gave priority precedence to the domains of national economy by increasing revenue 4 percent over the previous year and expenditure of the state budget by 4.5 percent. This year's state budget was correctly formulated so as to normalize production at a high level by effectively using the existing economic foundation and to thoroughly implement the party's policy for upgrading the standard of the people's material and cultural life in compliance with the demand of socialism.

This year's state budget increased its investment in the light industry sector so that production of various consumer goods, including fabrics, could be increased epochally.

Therefore, I recognize that this year's state budget has been formulated precisely and realistically based on the party's policy and line and by embodying the mass line and the scientific principle. I fully support and approve it. [applause]

This year, we are faced with the glorious task of more highly enhancing the standard of the people's material and cultural life by upholding the great leader's New Year address this year and by directing great strength to promoting the people's living standard in compliance with the most valuable and rewarding political life and sound and rich cultural life which our people are enjoying.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: By thoroughly implementing the party's policy for light-industry revolution, we should epochally increase the production of various consumer goods including fabrics.

The mission of the working class in our plant to improve the attire of the citizens of the capital by thoroughly implementing the party's policy for light-industry revolution is very grave and important.

By upholding the teachings given by the great leader to the domain of clothes and historic tasks advanced by the dear comrade leader in his letter to the participants in the national meeting of light industry, we will continue to wage the struggle to thoroughly implement the party's

policy for light-industry revolution by highly demonstrating the revolutionary spirit for self-reliance and arduous struggle and with the pride in having overfulfilled the first-quarter plan of this year by 13.1 percent.

By normalizing the monthly and quarterly production and increasing the kinds and promoting the quality of products, we will smoothly meet the increasing demand of the citizens of the capital for clothes by properly operating [word indistinct] work team.

We will fulfill the monthly and quarterly export plan without fail and will modernize facilities of the plant this year with foreign money we earned. We will produce sufficient fabrics so as to provide a suit of clothes for the citizens of the capital.

It is a basic guarantee for normalizing production and for overfulfilling the tasks assigned the plant to thoroughly implement the Taean work system. We will correctly implement the independent profit system in accordance with the demand of the Taean work system. By closely linking the daily financial summation work with the movement of an exemplary work team for production increase and conservation, we will effect new innovations in management of facilities, materials, manpower, and finance and will make all work teams of my workshop the exemplary work team in production increase and conservation.

No matter what wind may blow from any place and no matter what trial may block our way, we will glorify the socialist cause—the cause of the party and the leader—and will more brightly bloom the superiority and vitality of our style socialist economic management system.

The faith and will of our working class, which is following only our party by fully trusting it, are firm. There is no strength in the world which can break them.

By following the model of loyalty to the leader of the revolution cherished by the second party-cell members of the Fifth Bureau of the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY and by the poets of the Korean Literature Production, the entire working class of the Pyongyang Clothing Plant will wage a vigorous struggle to accomplish this year's national economy plan far ahead of schedule with the burning loyalty to the party and the leader. We will reduce the cost by 3.2 percent over the plan while overfulfilling the amount of payment to the state budget by 26 percent. Thus, we firmly resolve to contribute to successfully executing this year's state budget. [applause] [end recording]

Daily on Kim Chong-il Message to People's Army

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[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—All papers here today in editorials on the 59th anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korean People's Army (KPA) stress that the KPA is the glorious revolutionary armed forces which have performed undying feats that will shine long in history before the party and the revolution, the country and the people in the militant course of nearly 60 years.

NODONG SINMUN says in an editorial titled "The KPA Is Invincible Revolutionary Armed Forces Upholding Guidance of Party and Leader":

We recall most proudly, looking back on the militant road traversed by our revolutionary armed forces, that the People's Army has developed and strengthened into the party's army, a revolutionary army which forms an integrated whole with the party.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has said:

"It is the greatest honor and pride of our party to have the People's Army that firmly defends the party and the leader and implements to the end the orders and instructions of the party even if it should go through fire and water."

The course along which our People's Army has developed and strengthened was a course in which it has grown to be a solid defender of the party which forms an inseparably harmonious whole with its party. The indomitable revolutionary spirit of defending the unquestioned authority of the party and the leader politically and ideologically and at the cost of its life under whatever circumstances is an important ideological and moral trait of our People's Army which forms an integrated whole with the party.

Our People's Army in the past has been most staunch in the struggle to safeguard the political and ideological unity and cohesion of the party and the revolutionary ranks like the apple of eye and defend the high leadership authority of the party and the leader.

Today the whole Army is pervaded with the firm determination not to make the slightest concession on matters related to the authority of the party and the leader, trusting only its leader.

The noble trait of our People's Army which forms an integrated whole with the party lies also in its fighting spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality, [to] go through fire and water to implement the party's plan and intention.

Today the whole Army is full of the noble fighting trait of solving all the questions arising in the army building and military affairs as intended by the party, in which all the ranks move as one under the unitary leadership of the party centre.

The noble trait of our People's Army which forms an integrated whole with the party is manifested in that it upholds the cause of the party down through generations with confidence in the future of the revolution and faith in certain victory.

Today our People's Army soldiers are full of firm determination to cast in their lot with the party, entrusting their destinies entirely to the party without the slightest vacillation in whatever wind.

Recently the officers and men of the KPA Unit 525 sent to dear Comrade Kim Chong-il a letter of pledge of loyalty which is run through with the unquestioned faith and obligations to the leader, and he sent to them his handwritings full of trust in the revolutionary army. This is a noble example clearly showing that our party and Army will remain an integrated whole for ever.

No force can arrest the powerful advance of this steel-like ranks which are one flesh with the party.

Our revolutionary Armed Forces have been able to firmly defend the cause of the party and perform shining feats for the country and the people in the past thanks to the tested leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the glorious party.

KCNA Review of 25 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK2504055391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—All newspapers here today significantly observe the 59th founding anniversary of the heroic Korean People's Army (April 25, 1932).

On this occasion, NODONG SINMUN carries an editorial captioned "KPA Is Invincible Revolutionary Armed Forces Upholding Guidance of Party and Leader" and MINJU CHOSON an editorial "KPA Is Revolutionary Armed Forces Defending Socialist Cause".

Given in the press are an account of a grand national meeting marking the 59th anniversary of the founding of the heroic KPA and a report delivered by General Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army.

Dailies carry articles introducing the proud road traversed by the KPA and an account of different functions on the day of army foundation.

Foreigners highly praised the great leader President Kim Il-song as ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander, says NODONG SINMUN.

Works of president Kim Il-song were studied and disseminated in different countries, according to the daily.

The daily informs the readers that thanks of the C.C., the WPK was conveyed to organizations of the league of socialist working youth of Korea and schools which set examples in breeding rabbits.

An article of the daily says that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il initiated the "July 11 Red Flag neighbourhood unit movement" and wisely led it.

The daily gives an account of a meeting held to mark the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Korean General Federation of Science and Technology and a report that a delegation of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba will visit Korea.

The 41st World Table Tennis Championships opened and male and female paddlers of the unified Korea table tennis team won victory after victory at the first-day games in the first round robin preliminaries in the team events, reports the press.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article congratulating the unified Korea table tennis team on its participation in the championships.

Seen in the press is an account of a Pyongyang mass meeting held to welcome young men Yi Son-pil and Kim Kwon-hui who came over to the northern half of Korea.

NODONG SINMUN carries news that Paek In-chun, chairman of the C.C., the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Art of Korea, and Kang Tae-mu, director of the Secretariat of the Consultative Council of Former South Korean Politicians in the North for the Promotion of Peaceful Reunification, issued statements to the press condemning the recent bellicose outburst of the South Korean puppet defence minister threatening to provoke a war against the North.

MINJU CHOSON comes out with a commentary hitting at the South side's "National Assembly" for openly protecting the utterances of the puppet defence minister threatening "to surprise and destroy atomic reactor facilities of the North".

Under the title "Gorbachev faced with fierce protest demonstration in South Korea" NODONG SINMUN spotlights the news that foreign news media gave wide publicity to the South Korean people's struggle against the South Korean trip of the Soviet president and "Chonminnyon" made public a statement denouncing the No Tae-u-Gorbachev "talks." Introduced in the press is an article of the South Korean magazine MAL exposing the situation of the Chongju women prison, a living hell, in which woman student Yim Su-kyong, the "flower of reunification", is imprisoned.

NODONG SINMUN says that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets continued committing the ground and aerial war exercises against the North.

Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary and chairman of the Military Commission of the C.C., the Communist Party of China, inspected Sichuan Province and the Chinese PEOPLE'S DAILY carried an article by the vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China on the fundamental change in Tibet, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN carries foreign news that the participants in the second initiative conference of the members of the Communist Party of Russia called for restoring socialism in the Soviet Union. communist Saturday voluntary labour was done in the Soviet Union on the occasion of the 121st birth anniversary of Lenin. Soviet publications reported about demand for the resignation of the president growing in the Soviet Union and foreign news media reported that the proposal for establishing security system in the Asia-Pacific made by Gorbachev during his visit to Japan was snubbed.

The daily carries news about the building of a new society in Laos. Tanzania. Thailand. Pakistan. Nigeria. Tunisia. Kenya. Cyprus and Iran.

"Gloomy Reality of the United States Styling Itself as 'Judge of Human Rights'" is the title of a NODONG SINMUN article.

South Korea

No Damage Report in U.S. Facility Firebombing

SK2504025291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0236 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul. April 25 (YONHAP)—A gang of some 50 youths. apparently college students. attacked an American military facility in downtown Seoul with firebombs Thursday morning. police said.

At around 7 A.M.. chanting anti-U.S. slogans. they rushed out of an alley near the two-story U.S. Army Engineering Corps Building. threw some 20 firebombs and ran away.

No damage was reported as a result of the attack.

IPU Delegation Plans To Give Letter to North

SK2504015491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0117 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul. April 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—The itinerary for the South Korean delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] meeting in Pyongyang next week has been officially set and includes bilateral contacts between political leaders.

Chief delegate Rep. Pak Chong-su told reporters late Wednesday that the 25-member team will drive North through the truce village of Panmunjom Saturday morning and return May 5.

They will deliver a letter from National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu to his North Korean counterpart. Yang Hyong-sop. standing committee chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly. urging exchanges between lawmakers of the two sides.

Pak refused to say if he would also be carrying a letter from president No Tae-u to North Korean President Kim Il-song.

The South Koreans will have at least three opportunities to encounter the North Korean leader. during the IPU opening ceremony and receptions. but North Korea has not yet indicated if it will arrange a meeting between Kim and the delegates.

On Sunday. the South Koreans will attend a dinner hosted by Politburo Member Yun Ki-pok. chairman of the unification policy committee of the Supreme People's Assembly. and reciprocate with a dinner Tuesday for the committee. Pak said.

The 85th IPU session is set for April 29-May 4. Troop cuts and nuclear proliferation. the subject of great controversy between South and North Korea. are on the agenda.

Kim Il-song will deliver a speech at the opening ceremony.

Pak said his team will urge North Korean leaders to resume the suspended inter-Korean prime ministers' talks and discuss exchange visits between lawmakers.

IPU Delegates Hope To Meet With Kim Il-song

SK2504084991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0827 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul. April 25 (YONHAP)—Members of the South Korean parliament hope to meet with North Korean President Kim Il-song during a meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] in Pyongyang next week. Rep. Pak Chong-su said Thursday.

Pak. a member of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party. is head of the Seoul delegation and chairman of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee.

"I think that although the schedule for a meeting between our delegation and Kim Il-song has not been set. conditions for the meeting are ripe as the North Koreans are making reconciliatory gestures." Pak said.

"Furthermore. we cannot rule out the possibility of our delegation separately meeting with Kim since the North Korean authorities have billeted us in a hotel close to Kim's official residence."

The South Koreans may ask for a meeting with Kim. depending on the situation in Pyongyang. he told reporters.

The South Koreans will bring up Seoul-Pyongyang summit talks. simultaneous entry of South and North Korea into the United Nations. exchange visits by lawmakers. resumption of stalled dialogue and reunion of separated families if they meet with Kim.

Capitalizing on his post as chairman of the conference for 22 member countries in Asia and the Pacific. Pak plans to talk with the Vietnamese delegates about opening diplomatic relations and explain to the Chinese

why South Korea must join the United Nations first unless the North consents to simultaneous admission, he said.

The 85th IPU general meeting is slated for April 29-May 4 and the South Korean delegation is to enter North Korea through the truce village of Panmunjom on April 27 and return home May 5.

North Urged To Offer Reunification Alternative

SK2504030991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0225 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 25 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u asked a group of South Korean lawmakers Thursday to point out to North Korea when they visit Pyongyang next week that its unification policy is impractical and to offer a logical alternative.

Reopening the suspended South-North Korean premiers' talks is of the utmost urgency, No said, suggesting he was now ready to accept Pyongyang's proposal that military issues be included on the agenda.

The 12 national assemblymen will go to the North Korean capital as part of a 25-member delegation Saturday to attend the 85th Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting April 29-May 4 and are scheduled to have a series of contacts with North Korean leaders during their nine-day stay.

"Immediate unification is unrealistic considering the war experience of the past half century, built-up resentment and deep differences in system, ideology and culture," No said.

"North Korea insists national reunification is possible once the non-aggression pact that they insist on is concluded, but how is reunion possible when we cannot even agree to reunite separated families?"

The two sides, divided at the end of World War II, fought the Korean war (1950-1953). There are an estimated 10 million members of separated families in the two halves of the only remaining divided nation in the world.

"Point out to the North Korean authorities the impracticality of the North Korean unification policy," No told the lawmakers, stressing that adhering to principles is important for long-term inter-Korean relations.

He asked the delegates to prepare arguments of "persuasive logic" to buttress South Korea's unification proposal, its appeal to the North to sign the nuclear safeguards accord, and its acceptance of the presence of U.S. troops in South Korea.

Pressure To Grow if North Nuclear Weapons Made

SK2504013091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku said yesterday that the government will take all possible countermeasures if North Korea comes to possess nuclear weapons.

"If North Korea comes in possession of nuclear weapons, the government, along with the United States, will mount new political and diplomatic efforts to deter a war on the Korean peninsula," Yi testified in a plenary of the National Assembly.

He said he felt sorry for the fuss caused by his earlier controversial remarks that can be taken to mean South would make a preemptive attack on North's nuclear facilities. The intention was to have North stop nuclear weapons program, he said.

Five lawmakers took the floor to ask questions on national unification, security and diplomacy.

Prime Minister No Chae-pong said denuclearization should be guaranteed by superpowers in the area as well as a lucid inter-Korean agreement on the prevention of war.

He noted, "Today, a political will not to resort to nuclear weapons is more important than whether or not a country possesses nuclear weapons."

The premier went on to point out, "We should pay keen attention to the fact that North Korea continues to refuse to sign nuclear safety accords allowing for outside inspection."

No also said that Seoul did not request Moscow's help for the realization of an inter-Korean summit during President No Tae-u's summit with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

As to worries expressed by lawmakers about investment in the Soviet Union because of political uncertainty, No said, "The pledged economic cooperation with the Soviet Union is not a matter between individuals but between nations. Even if changes occur in the Soviet Union, relations will remain unchanged."

Asked about how long U.S. troops will stay in South Korea, Premier No said, "If the United States reconsiders its plan, we will respond after taking security and defense aspects into account."

He added, "There will be great changes in the Korean-U.S. security system depending upon future North Korean military policies."

No denied reports that Korea will open its market for rice in connection with the Uruguay Round talks, saying, "We will not admit any foreign rice."

The interpellation session is to end on Saturday.

Sports Minister Outlines Plans for United Team

SK2504020491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0141 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Chiba, Japan, april 25 (yonhap)—South Korean Sports Minister Pak Chol-on said Wednesday the South's goal in the field of inter-Korean sports exchange was to conclude a sports exchange agreement with North Korea and merge the national olympic committees of the two Koreas.

Pak, here to watch the unified Korean team in the 41st World Table Tennis championships, said his government was making every effort through official and unofficial channels to realize the full merger of the South and North Korean olympic teams through a three-step strategy.

The first stage was to establish basic principles of sports exchange, gather information about North Korean sports and open exchanges in a couple of fields.

Forming single teams for the table tennis competition and the world youth soccer championship in June in Portugal were part of that stage, he said.

The second stage was to promote sports exchanges in earnest based on the first stage and jointly compete in the Albertville Winter Olympics and Barcelona Summer games next year.

Goodwill Games and exchanges of sports personnel would be actively sought as part of this strategy, he said.

If the first and second stages are carried out smoothly, the third stage will be to seek a sports exchange agreement and the merger of the national olympic committees of the two sides, he said.

Pak, chief arthitect of President No Tae-u's "northern policy," played a significant role in the agreement to field a joint Korean team to the table tennis meet.

It was important for the two Koreas to begin exchanges in non-political and non-military fields such as sports, he said.

Sports exchanges will lay a base for national unification if the three-stage strategy is successful.

Meanwhile, an inter-Korean sports ministers meeting has been cancelled as Pak's North Korean counterpart, Kim Yu-sun, chairman of the North's Physical Sports Guidance Committee, has not arrived in Chiba.

Pak said he would be willing to meet with Kim Hyong-chin, chief North Korean delegate to the inter-Korean sports talks and head of the joint ping-pong team, if Kim asked him to.

Effort for Diplomatic Ties With China Viewed

SK2104115091 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 21 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] The government has concluded that the ROK-USSR summit talks, which were held on Cheju Island on 20 April, prepared a turning point in solving issues of the North and the South and of our government's entry into the United Nations. Thereby, the government has decided to make all diplomatic efforts to realize the early establishment of diplomatic ties with China which has the final key in solving the Korean peninsula issue.

A government high-ranking official predicts that there will be a great change in China's understanding and policy over South Korea as a result of the Cheju summit talks. In addition, he said: The government will change its original policy which featured "being first to enter the United Nations and then to establish diplomatic ties with China." Thus, it will make all diplomatic efforts for the simultaneous realization of the UN admission and diplomatic ties with China on the occasion of the 46th UN General Assembly to be held this fall.

He continued: At the ROK-USSR summit talks, the USSR, indeed, has formalized its position of supporting the policies of our government's first entry into the United Nations and of its leading North Korea to open its door. Therefore, in persuading and asking for Chinese cooperation in the future, the Soviet Union will be our important axis in developing relations.

He also said: Our government will formally ask the Soviet Union to inform China of its position on the issues and to more deeply discuss the Korean peninsula issue more than ever before at the Chinese-Soviet summit talks to be held between Gorbachev and Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC, in May. I expect that such an effort, ultimately and automatically, will play a big role in realizing the simultaneous entry into the United Nations by North- South Korea and in achieving the early establishment of diplomatic ties between the ROK and China.

Regarding the relations between Japan and North Korea and between the United States and North Korea, he also said that it is our government's judgment that an atmosphere has been created to accelerate the speed of the development of relations between North Korea and the United States, as well as Japan, as a result of the summit talks. And he added that, according to the speed of development of relations between the ROK and China, it will more actively take a step toward North Korea to lead it in improving relations with the United States and Japan.

Timing of Establishment of PRC Ties Viewed

SK2504075591 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 25 Apr 91 p 2

[Report by correspondent Yi Nak-yon from Tokyo]

[Text] On 25 April, a Chinese source based in Tokyo revealed that it seems China and the ROK could establish diplomatic relations with each other before Japan and North Korea establish diplomatic relations.

This source stated that the basis for this kind of judgment is due to the fact that Japan faces many complicated issues that need to be resolved in establishing diplomatic relations with North Korea, such as considering the relations between the United States and the ROK; the issue of North Korea accepting nuclear inspection; and the issue of compensation toward North Korea. However, China does not face these kinds of problems but is rather seeking an agreement regarding the inevitability of establishing diplomatic relations with the ROK. Also, because the Soviet Union is approaching the ROK, China is being requested to carry out realistic diplomacy.

This source did not mention the date for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the ROK and China but added that consideration toward North Korea will not be a big obstacle in China's establishment of diplomatic relations with the ROK.

Maritime Talks Set for 2-3 May With Taiwan

SK2504065091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0634 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 25 (YONHAP)—The seventh meeting of the South Korea-Taiwan joint maritime consultative committee is scheduled for May 2-3 in Seoul, the Korea Maritime and Port Administration (KMPA) said Thursday.

Heated debate is expected over a Korean shipping company's bid to secure exclusive terminal in Kaohsiung, the biggest port in Taiwan, and over the establishment of shipping company branches and their staffing levels, a KMPA spokesman said.

The Koreans have called for Taiwan to cooperate with Hanjin Shipping Co. in its effort to secure the exclusive terminal, he said, and the Taiwanese promised cooperation in the sixth round of talks last year.

The Taiwanese Communications Ministry and Kaohsiung Harbor Bureau, however, are hesitant to sign the lease with Hanjin for the terminal and Taiwan's Wanhai Steamship Co. recently expressed its intention to lease the terminal, a Hanjin spokesman said.

Currently, American President Lines and Sea Land Service Inc. of the United States, and Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha Ltd. and Mitsui Osaka Lines Ltd. of Japan are the only lines with exclusive terminals in Kaohsiung, he said.

Hanjin is unable to sign a contract even though it was second in handling cargo in the port last year after Taiwan's Evergreen Marine Corp., shipping 75,000 twenty-foot equivalent units to the American continent, he complained.

Soviet, East European Technology Input To Grow

SK2104022291 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] Korea will expand the introduction of advanced basic science technology from the Soviet Union and other East-bloc nations and graft them into Korea's industrial technology, Prime Minister No Chae-pong said yesterday.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the 24th Science Day at the Taedok Science Town near Taejon, No said that at the same time, Korea would consolidate its existing cooperative ties with Western countries.

The Korean government will increase its financial support to Korean research institutes for joint research activities with their foreign counterparts, the premier also said.

Reaffirming the state goal of joining the ranks of the world's seven most technically advanced countries by early next century, No said that the government will sharply expand investment in research and development in coming years.

Total national investment in research and development will reach 4 percent of the gross national product by 1996 and 5 percent by 2001, a rise of around 2 percent level from the present level, No said.

The government plans to expand special educational programs for students from primary schools to university who are extraordinarily bright in scientific study, the premier said.

Yi Sang-ok Briefs Cabinet on Summit Results

SK2204030291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will carefully consider a Soviet proposal for a binational agreement on "friendly relations and cooperation" and seek close consultations with South Korea's allies in developing Seoul-Moscow ties, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Monday.

Yi, reporting to a special cabinet meeting held at the presidential office of Chongwadae, on the results of South Korea-Soviet summit over the weekend, said the government plans on close cooperation between the two countries for South Korean entry in the United Nations this year.

An early meeting of foreign ministers and sustained high-level talks between the two countries will be pursued for this purpose, Yi told the cabinet meeting chaired by President No Tae-u.

Talks will also continue on getting Soviet explanation for the 1983 downing of South Korean commercial jet liner, Yi said. The shootdown killed 269 passengers and crew aboard the jet.

On the Soviet-proposed binational agreement, the foreign minister said the government will review similar pacts between the Soviet Union and other countries. The government will be prudent in handling the proposal after the Soviet side makes a concrete and detailed one, Yi said.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, in a 95-minute summit with South Korean President No Tae-u Saturday, proposed that Seoul and Moscow conclude a pact calling for expanded bilateral and regional cooperation.

No recommended that foreign ministers of the two countries meet to discuss the issue further, according to government officials.

The foreign minister pledged that while building on Seoul-Moscow relations, the government will hold close consultations with the country's allies in the process.

Yi also pledged full support for Seoul-Moscow joint development projects in Sakhalin and Siberia and for wider economic cooperation.

Cabinet Ordered To Prepare Postsummit Reports

SK2204070191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0627 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—President No Tae-u on Monday ordered in-depth ministerial reports on issues taken up at last week's Seoul-Moscow summit, mainly a proposal for a bilateral friendship and cooperation pact, Korea's bid to enter the United Nations and expanded trade and technology exchanges.

Presiding over a special cabinet meeting in the morning, the president stressed that the progress of Seoul-Moscow relations should be accompanied by closer consultations with South Korea's long-time allies, the United States and Japan.

The proposed friendship pact must be sought in a way positive to South Korea's ties with its allies and to the situation on the Korean peninsula, No said.

The meeting was called following Saturday's summit between No and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Agreement for an early exploration of natural gas in Siberia, expansion of bilateral trade to 10 billion U.S. dollar scale by the mid-1990s, proposal of the friendship pact and Soviet understanding of South Korea's U.N. entry bid within this year were discussed during presidential and ministerial talks.

President No asked for an unimpeded progress in reaching the 10 billion dollar mark in trade as planned as well as effective pursuit of the natural gas development project.

He also urged the early conclusion of the Korean-Soviet fisheries agreement, initialed in January, within this year, concrete measures to realize scientific and technological cooperation and tangible results on 49 technological cooperation projects nearing accord between the two sides.

The government should support increasing Soviet interest in South Korea by providing professors and research materials, encouraging active cultural exchanges and upgrading the status of Korean residents in the Soviet Union as well, No told the cabinet.

HANGYORE SINMUN Views Summit Talks

SK2204061191 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 21 Apr 91 p 2

[Editorial: "ROK-Soviet Summit Talks and Easing of Tension on Korean Peninsula"]

[Text] President Gorbachev, the first Soviet head of state to visit the Korean peninsula, left on the afternoon of 2 April after holding summit talks with President No Tae-u on Cheju Island. We think that the ROK-Soviet summit talks are of symbolic significance, except for agreement on concluding a treaty of friendship and cooperation.

North-South dialogue, North Korea's subscription to a nuclear safeguards agreement, the UN admission, and other matters concerning the easing of tension on the Korean peninsula were discussed extensively during the summit talks between the two countries. An Asian-Pacific collective security system, which Gorbachev has been considering, and diplomatic, cultural, and economic cooperation between the two countries also were discussed.

Gorbachev stressed the importance of dialogue,exchange, and cooperation in the North-South issue and promised that the Soviet Union would help improve North-South relations. On North Korea's acceptance of nuclear inspection, he reiterated what he said in Japan—that the Soviet Union would stop supplying nuclear fuel and technology if North Korea does not subscribe to a nuclear safeguards agreement. He expressed his understanding of the ROK's position on the UN admission; he said that, in view of the United Nations' principle on universality, the Soviet Union would not oppose the ROK's admission into the United Nations before North Korea, even though it is desirable for North and South Korea to enter the United Nations simultaneously. In particular, it is worth noting that President Gorbachev referred to the fact that China has considered it "unreasonable" for North and South Korea to enter the United Nations as one member, a proposal by North Korea.

President Gorbachev chose to visit Cheju Island, not Seoul, in his ROK tour. Also, he stated that he would pay an official visit to Seoul and would visit Pyongyang, too. In this way, he took North Korea's position into consideration. Still, we think, he acknowledged, to a great extent, the fact that the South has been taking the initiative in handling North-South issues.

What is noteworthy in this regard is an agreement to sign an ROK-Soviet treaty of friendship and cooperation. This means that a legal and systematic device will be provided to ensure that the two countries expand and promote trade and exchanges in the development of natural resources, fisheries, economic affairs, science and technology, communications, aviation, and various other fields. The Soviet Union proposed the signing of a treaty of friendship and cooperation, it appears, to urge the ROK to put into practice economic assistance, which it had promised to extend to the Soviet Union. Therefore, it appears that economic assistance worth $3 billion to the Soviet Union will be speedily put into practice.

Upon seeing the hastily arranged ROK-Soviet summit talks, our people cannot help but be worried. This is because we cannot reject the possibility that the ROK-Soviet summit talks, which were held at a time when offensives have been launched against the North more aggressively than ever, may lead to aggravating confrontation, rather than easing tension in North-South relations.

Poll Sees Positive Attitude Toward Cheju Talks

SK2304100891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0938 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—Most South Koreans think the Cheju Summit between Korean President No Tae-u and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had a positive affect on peace on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia and helped inter-Korean dialogue and exchanges.

In a telephone poll of 1,000 adults across the country, except Cheju, conducted by the Institute of Asian Studies on April 20-21 for the Information Ministry, 76.5 percent said Saturday's summit would have a good impact on peace on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

Also, 61.4 percent and 66.7 percent, respectively, said the summit talks would positively affect the Korean economy and inter-Korean exchanges.

And 61.7 percent said Gorbachev's visit to South Korea would help open North Korean society, 57.2 percent said it would help North Korea accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities, 76.4 percent said it would help entry into the United Nations and 57.3 percent said better relations between South Korea and China would result from the talks.

In addition, 83.3 percent said the summit talks enhanced national prestige and Korea's status in the international arena and 86.4 percent were optimistic about the future of relations between South Korea and the Soviet Union.

Asked to guess North Korea's reaction to Gorbachev's visit to South Korea, especially since the Soviet leader has never been to Pyongyang, 39.1 percent answered North Korea was "deeply shocked" and 47 percent said "considerably shocked."

Just 13.6 percent said North Korea could no longer be shocked.

Bank To Open Representative Office in Moscow

SK2204071291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0656 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 22 (YONHAP)—The Export-Import (Exim) Bank of Korea is to open its representative office in Moscow Tuesday to become the first South Korean bank to have a resident office there, a bank spokesman said Monday.

Korean Finance Minister Chong Yong-ui who is in Moscow for talks with his Soviet counterpart V.E. Orlov and Bank President Hong Chae-hyong will host a reception to celebrate the opening on Monday. A number of Soviet economic and political officials were invited to the party.

In January, the Exim bank was given official permission to open its Moscow office for the first time.

The office, which has three employees, will support Korean companies in Moscow and their projects and answer credit inquiries from Korean exporters, he said.

Seoul To Discuss Intellectual Property Rights

SK2304102491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0757 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea, dropping a policy of not negotiating about intellectual property rights with the European Community until the Uruguay Round is over, is now to consider ways to provide protection.

Since Korea-U.S. negotiations on intellectual property rights were concluded in 1986, the EC has demanded the same treatment and the matter is to be discussed in the seventh Korea-EC annual high-level consultations due in the first half of the year, the Economic Planning Board [EPB] officials said Tuesday.

In the negotiations, the government will offer to protect EC intellectual rights in principle if the EC agrees to a trade-off such as technology transfer, an EPB official said.

This newly soft attitude seems directly linked to additional retaliatory action reportedly begun by the EC in a move to stop dumping of Korean goods. As part of this, the EC removed Korean goods from its generalized system of preference in 1988.

The EC has demanded not only retroactive protection for such things as copyrights, software and substance patents, which are not on the market, but also conversion of process patents into substance patents.

The Korean Government has expressed its intention to give the same status to U.S. and EC intellectual property, but not in the matter of converting process patents into substance patents as this requires approval of the National Assembly.

In the Korea-U.S. intellectual property accord, enacted in July 1987, retroactive protection was given to pirate products, 10 years for printed materials and five years for software programs.

Papua New Guinea Opens Embassy in Seoul

SK2504031591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0235 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 25 (YONHAP)—Papua New Guinea opened an embassy in Seoul on Wednesday, bringing the number of foreign missions in South Korea to 76, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

Papua New Guinea established diplomatic relations with Korea in 1976 and its ambassador to Japan had covered Korea.

Disclosure of Funds for Fighter Planes Sought

SK2504015291 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] An opposition lawmaker yesterday urged the administration to disclose who has taken 200 billion won, which he claimed a U.S. firm delivered to it in commission for Seoul's planned purchase of its fighters, arguing that the money may be used in political funds during coming elections.

Pak Sil of the New Democratic Party maintained that the F16 Fighting Falcons might be old-fashioned when the $5 billion Korea Fighter Program featuring the procurement and co-production of the military aircraft ends in 1998.

He, supporting the South Korean government's consistent calls for the North's permission for on-site inspection of its nuclear facilities, cited the need for withdrawal of nuclear weapons, if any under the U.S. command, from South Korea.

He pressed the Cabinet to make public a formal position on recent reports by some local newspapers about a U.S. scheme to keep stationing its troops in the South for a dozen more years, while asking it to confirm reports by foreign media about Seoul's commitment to another $2 billion in aid to the Soviet Union.

Five lawmakers from the ruling and opposition arrays took the floor for interpellation of the No Tae-u administration concerning foreign, security and reunification policies during a National Assembly plenary session.

Their inquiries focused on the influence of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to South Korea on North Korea's foreign relations and the impact of an amity treaty, discussed in the No-Gorbachev meeting on Seoul's ties with its friendly countries including the United States and Japan.

Reps. Pak, Cho Hong-kyu, also from the largest opposition party, and Hwang Pyong-tae of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] opined that Seoul had better postpone applying for United Nations membership and continue persuading the North to join the world body simultaneously in order not to harm inter-Korean relations.

Cho asked, "What benefits could we expect from the administration's promises of a $3 billion loan and participation in the development of Soviet natural resources, all offered as a decoy for a hastily-arranged summit meeting? Does the administration prepare for Gorbachev's fall?"

He viewed that Seoul's borrowing of Soviet influence for its admission to the UN ahead of Pyongyang and also for Pyongyang's acceptance of international inspection of its nuclear power plants might place the isolated Kim Il-song government further into a corner.

Hwang called on Prime Minister No Chae-pong and relevant Cabinet ministers to disclose government security postures, seeing that the United States which he said is playing a key role in restructuring a post-Gulf war international order, may review and change defense programs for South Korea.

He urged No to clarify Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku's recent suggestion of a pre-emptive attack on the North Korean nuclear facilities.

Chi Yon-tae of the DLP asked what measures the administration has taken to help private enterprises share a slice of the Gulf rehabilitation at a time when the situation seems unfavorable to them despite Korea's contribution of $500 million and dispatch of military medical and transport teams.

He demanded thorough counterstep for a conclusion of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations that will result in the opening of the domestic agricultural market.

Seoul Will Not Open Rice Market to Foreigners

SK2504012491 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Apr 91 pp 1,2

[Text] The government will not open Korea's rice market to foreign countries, Prime Minister No Chae-pong told a full session of the National Assembly yesterday.

Answering lawmakers' questions, he said the administration will endeavor to exclude rice from a list of import liberalization.

He said there have not yet been serious discussions in the Uruguay Round of multilateral negotiations on farm trade reform on the non-trade roles of agriculture such as the "security" of national food supplies.

No said there would be no change to the government policy of allowing in no rice from overseas. "We will not tolerate imports of even a slight amount of rice," he said.

Korea is under pressure to open its farm market to foreign goods. An agreement on farm trade reform is regarded by Uruguay Round negotiators as a key to the success of the Uruguay Round bargaining covering all 15 trade sectors which was launched in 1986.

Korean farms have been opposing any farm market opening, saying that it would hit the shaky agricultural industry hard.

Prime Minister No said that a South Korea-Soviet friendship treaty, if concluded, would contain no military aspects.

South Korea will consult with its allies, including the United States and Japan, before concluding a treaty with the Soviet Union, he added.

He dismissed as "unfounded" the allegation that Seoul agreed to provide Moscow with additional economic aid of $2 billion during the summit talks between President No Tae-u and Gorbachev on Cheju Island on April 20.

South Korea has pledged $3 billion of long-term loans to the Soviets.

No said he expects that China will support Seoul's entry into the United Nations, though the country maintains closer ties with North Korea. China, one of the five permanent U.N. Security Council members, has veto power.

He said Seoul's effort to gain U.N. membership separately from North Korea is receiving support from an absolute number of nations.

As to Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku's recent controversial remarks regarding a possible commando raid on North Korean nuclear facilities, No said Yi's real intention was misinterpreted.

His remarks do not represent the government's official position, the prime minister said.

The defense minister triggered controversy April 12 by saying that South Korea could launch a commando raid on North Korean nuclear facilities if the North continues rejecting international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Testifying before the full parliamentary session, Minister Yi offered an apology for his controversial remarks. He said his remarks were misinterpreted.

He said South Korea will do all it can to deter North Korea from going nuclear in the diplomatic and political arena.

Militarily, Seoul, teamed with Washington, will beef up its war-deterrent capabilities.

North Korea is capable of turning out about 4,500 tons of chemical weapons annually at present, the regime is believed to have about 1,000 tons of chemical weapons in store, he said.

Plans on Moving Military Facilities Revealed

SK2404013691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0108 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry has plans on the drawing board to move military facilities from nine more cities to the outskirts, financing the relocation with a bond issue.

The ministry said Wednesday this was in addition to moves planned for the cities of Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, Inchon, Kwangju and Taejon. The new cities are in Kyonggi, Kangwon and South Kyongsang Provinces.

The plan was approved by the cabinet and a bill to permit the bond issue will be submitted to the National Assembly, which is in session, a ministry spokesman said.

Money from the bonds, to be sold mostly to banks and financial agencies, will pay for any relocation that takes more than five to six years, he said.

Relocation of Yongsan Base in Seoul, which houses U.S. troops, also will be financed through bond sales. The base is scheduled to be out of the capital by 1995-1996.

The moves began in 1966, and 127 units had resettled in the suburbs by the end of last year. This year will see another 19 go at a cost of 418.8 billion won (578 million U.S. dollars), and 100 more from 1992.

The additional moves were planned in anticipation of requests for them from newly elected local governments, an official said.

Two Students 'Critical' After 19 Apr Clash

SK2104023691 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] Two university students were in critical condition after being hit by teargas canisters in the head during clashes with riot police on Friday night in Masan, South Kyongsang Province, and in Iri, North Cholla Province, hospital officials said.

The two students identified as Chong Chin-tae, 22, a Kyongnam University sophomore, and Yu Chol-kun, 25, a Wongwang University senior, underwent brain surgeries but failed to recover consciousness as of 6 P.M. yesterday.

Chong was struck by a teargas shell, at about 4 P.M. in front of Masan's Kyongnam University gate during a violent student-police clash, eyewitnesses said. Masan is the epicenter of the April 19th Student Revolution that toppled the autocratic Syngman Rhee regime.

Around the same time in Iri, Yu met a similar fate.

The accidents occurred when riot police shot volleys of teargas canisters to break up students who staged violent demonstrations across the country in protest against the government's "low-profile diplomacy."

The students denounced the government for inviting Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to win his support for South Korea's independent entry into the United Nations.

Police said it was inevitable to use teargas to break up the violent protesters who attacked with stones and firebombs.

Servicemen, Students Arrested as 'Seditious'

SK2304065191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0633 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—South Korean military intelligence announced Tuesday the arrest of two seditious rings comprising 12 servicemen and college students, charging them with subversion for spreading North Korean propaganda and trying to indoctrinate soldiers into communism.

Mostly privates first class, they belong to a group headed by reserve conscript Chong Ki-ho, 25, that banded together in March last year and circulated hundreds of pamphlets, titled "Patriotic Soldier," that claim South Korean soldiers are mercenaries for the United States and that eulogize North Korean ideology, according to the Defense Security Command (DSC).

The literature calls anti-communism "a shameful vestige" from when South Korea was a Japanese colony and praises North Korea. It also urges servicemen to boycott mandatory military education, the DSC said.

The group organized a reading circle in August, led by O Kon-su, 22, a Navy corporal with a history of campus activism, and invited laborers and high school students to study what the DSC described as socialist economic theory and seditious literature. The four soldiers arrested were college students when they began their period of military service.

The DSC said it confiscated 151 kinds of leaflets, books and tapes used for indoctrination. The booklets were distributed in the hundreds on at least five occasions and the reading circle met more than 20 times, as recently as last month.

The 12 were referred to the prosecution or a martial court, and three more were wanted by the police. Fifteen laborers and high school students who belonged to the reading circle were briefly detained and then released with admonition, the Security Command said.

Union Group Compiles Workers' Arrest Figures

SK2204081291 Seoul KOREA DAILY in English 22 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] At least 1,211 workers from 335 labor unions have been arrested in the past three years, mostly in connection with their involvement in labor struggles.

The figure, compiled by a progressive unionists group of "Chonnohyop," or the National Council of Labor Unions, represents the number of unionist workers arrested since the inauguration in February 1988 of the Sixth Republic led [by] President No Tae-u.

Currently, some 166 unionist laborers are serving jail terms or being held for trials or investigations, a Chonnohyop spokesman said.

Of those under detention, the largest number came from the Masan and Changwon industrial areas with 35, followed by Seoul and Ulsan with 19 each, Koje Island where Daewoo Shipyard is located with 18 and Inchon with 15.

By year, 79 were arrested during the first 11 months of 1988, 583 in 1989 and 471 in 1990. This year, 78 were arrested as of Feb. 15. The arrestees included 202 heads of labor unions.

Hyundai Business Group produced the largest number of arrested workers with 128, followed by Daewoo Business Group with 98 during the three-year period.

By company, Hyundai Heavy Industries in Ulsan won first place with 80 workers arrested, and Daewoo Shipyard with 47, Tongil Co. with 37, Poongsan Metal with 34 and the Seoul Subway Corp. with 31.

Those arrested faced a variety of charges, including interference with the operation of plants, violence, violations of the Labor Dispute Law, the Law on Rallies and Demonstrations and the National Security Law, among other laws, and intervention with the execution of government duties.

The government authorities thus far have not released any data on the status of arrested labor activists.

The Chonnohyop spokesman said that the figure does not include the number of arrested workers who were associated with the companies that have closed down and those associated with dissolved unions during the period.

Quick Settlement of Wage Negotiations Urged

SK2304095791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0653 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu asked leaders of economic organizations Tuesday to help private companies quickly settle pay raises at below 10 percent.

Meeting with the heads of six major economic organizations, he said wages for construction workers were rising due to a construction boom and spreading pay hikes to other sectors.

The organizations included the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Federation of Korean Industries, the Korea Foreign Trade Association and the Korea Federation of Small Businesses.

Choe, who is also economic planning minister, also said the government would do its utmost to keep the inflation rate under 10 percent. The rate was 4.9 percent for the first quarter.

The government would use every administrative tool it had to control real estate speculation and expand the supply of houses to stabilize rents, and it was studying multifaceted ways to help ease the shortage of miners and sailors, he said.

Choe said wage hikes, which have topped productivity growth since 1987, had weakened the international competitiveness of Korean products, caused inflation and created an international balance of payments deficit.

Choe called for the vicious cycle of pay raises, loss of competitiveness, and inflation to be eradicated this year, but the business leaders complained of hard times in wage negotiations because of rampant inflation and demanded the government stabilize commodity and real estate prices.

The government's goal of single-digit wage increases is a world away from the demands of labor organizations.

The Korea Federation of Trade Unions (KFTU), the only government-approved labor body, is calling for pay raises of at least 17.5 percent.

Chonnohyop, an unapproved rival labor organization, is pushing for 22.2 percent.

Wage negotiations have been settled in only 10 percent of the nation's companies and the average hike at manufacturing firms is estimated at 11.5 percent.

A KFTU official said the government's target was unattainable given the high inflation rate and since the government's claim that wage hikes spur inflation was false.

"Although the government cried for the control of wage hikes below 10 percent last year, wages actually rose more than 17 percent," said the official, who refused to be identified.

The real causes of inflation were skyrocketing real estate prices, the bloated money supply and hikes of public utility charges, he argued.

Committee Lays Groundwork for Green Party

SK2204100391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0924 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 22 (YONHAP)—South Korea is likely to have its own Green Party soon as a Preparatory Committee has got down to its work of setting up nationwide nervous system.

Song Sun-chang, chairman of the Preparatory Committee, said in an interview, "We are now ready to create 45 regional branches, which are necessary for our debut as a political party, and the job is likely to be completed by late May."

The party failed to join the established political bloc in April last year due to financial problems. The Preparatory Committee was inaugurated in December, 1989, by a nationwide bird-loving association.

Since the nation was swept by the shocking news of polluted tap water in Taegu late March, the public interest in environmental problems has grown sharply.

Burma

NLD Submits New Central Executive Committee

BK2304145191 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] has issued Press Release No. 7/91 on 23 April 1991.

The text of the press release reads:

This is to make public that the following changes to the list of patrons and executive committee members in some registered political parties have been put on record by the commission:

1. According to the submission by the National League for Democracy, the following old Central Executive Committee has been invalidated:

Chairman: U Tin U
General Secretary: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
Secretary: U Win Tin
Secretary: U Chit Khaing

Officials in charge of:
Research Department: U Kyi Maung
Organization Department: U Aung Shwe
Treasury Department: U Lwin
Information Department: U Aung Lwin
Mass and Class Department: Daw Myint Myint Khin

Hence, the Central Executive Committee of the National League for Democracy has been restructured as follows with effect from 26 March 1991:

Chairman: U Aung Shwe
Secretary: U Lwin
Treasurer: U Nyunt Wai

Members:
U Shwe
U Than Tun
U Hla Pe
U Mya Lay
U Soe Myint
U Lun Tin
U Min Wai

[passage omitted]

Mandalay University Classes To Reopen 14 May

BK2404075791 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Authorities concerned have announced that all classes for the 1987-88 academic year at Mandalay University—the main Mandalay University, the Yadanaboni day and evening classes, and the correspondence courses—will reopen on Tuesday, 14 May 1991. Students who had registered for and were attending the 1987-88 academic year classes at the Mandalay University may submit to the corresponding university offices beginning 2 May 1991 their applications expressing their intention to continue their studies, together with their pledges and testimonials.

Students who have already obtained permission to stay at hostels for the 1987-88 academic year classes will be permitted to move into the hostels beginning Sunday, 12 May 1991.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Singapore

Goh: ASEAN Investments Cooperation Needed

BK2404154291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0816 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Singapore, April 24 (AFP)—Southeast Asian countries must pool their resources if they are to compete with the world's economic powers for investments to fuel growth, Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said Wednesday.

Speaking to a conference of labour leaders, Mr. Goh brushed off fears that a "growth triangle" with Malaysia and Indonesia could cost jobs here and called the scheme crucial to the region's continued prosperity.

He said economic blocs in Europe and North America were aimed not only at creating bigger markets for member countries but also at attracting investments by multinational corporations, and Southeast Asia must be ready to compete.

"On its own each ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) economy does not offer a full range of advantages which Europe or the North American free trade area can," Mr. Goh said.

"ASEAN countries are not yet ready to offer a borderless market to investors. But we can combine resources to make ourselves more competitive."

ASEAN includes Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Many unions here have expressed concern that industries would shift operations to Malaysia's Johore state and Indonesia's Riau islands, the other two points of the growth triangle which would match Singapore's know-how with its neighhbours' resources and labour.

But Mr. Goh, who started pushing the idea as deputy prime minister before becoming government head in November, said that Japanese industries have been expanding abroad since the mid-1980s and their workers have not suffered.

"The trend of structural changes is inevitable. We either surf with the wave or be drowned by it," he told the

seventh triennial delegates conference of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) here.

Mr. Goh who succeeded Lee Kuan Yew, said the growth triangle would provide new opportunities for Singapore and would lead to a "bigger area of prosperity and growth" around the republic.

"We are in fact doing on a small scale what the European community is doing on a big scale," Mr. Goh said, adding that otherwise the region would risk losing investments to other areas such as the U.S.-Canada-Mexico triangle.

"Without the growth triangle, all three of us—Johore, Riau and Singapore—will be worse off."

Mr. Goh said it would be better if the growth triangle could become a single market, "but that is another chapter yet to be written.".

He told about 300 unionists representing a quarter million workers at the three-day conference that to try to retain industries in Singapore which are no longer competitive was futile.

"If these industries do not go to Johore and Batam they will go elsewhere," the prime minister said.

Mr. Goh said that international competition for investments would increase in the 1990s as countries jockey for capital to expand their economies.

"Growth in investments has now supplanted growth in international trade as the source of a nation's wealth," he said.

He said China, Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and even Vietnam, once closed to investments because of politics, would soon be vying for capital with Japan and other dynamic Asian economies such as South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia.

Developed countries will be less generous with economic aid and schemes like the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) for exports from developed countries, he said.

Mr. Goh said the prospect of the European Community (EC) becoming a single market in 1993 still caused concern in some quarters.

"While EC leaders have assured that the single European market will not be protectionistic, the fear remains that it may become so if their industries are still unable to compete against outsiders," he said.

Five-Power Defense Military Exercise Begins

BK2304155291 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] The member nations of the Five-Power Defense Arrangement [FPDA] today start a four-day air defense exercise in Malaysian and Singapore air space.

Code-named Major [word indistinct], the exercise is coordinated by the Integrated Air Defense System headquarters at Butterworth. Nearly 90 aircraft from the air forces of Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Malaysia, and Singapore are participating. Naval and ground forces will also be involved.

The Republic of Singapore Air Force will be deploying about 50 aircraft, including four F-16s which will be taking part in the exercise during such period.

FPDA defense ministers will attend the closing ceremony in Singapore this Friday.

Cambodia

Commentary Reiterates Support for Cease-Fire

BK2404153391 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Station commentary: "A Major Encouraging Step"]

[Text] On 22 April in New York City, the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] and the UN secretary general issued a joint appeal to all warring Cambodian parties to accept a temporary end to hostilities in Cambodia starting from 1 May 1991.

As the legitimate representative of the Cambodian people, the State of Cambodia's Government welcomes this appeal because it responds to the aspirations of the Cambodian people, who for the past more than 12 years have aspired to nothing but a peaceful life. Everyone knows that the civil war raging in Cambodia for the past more than 12 years is caused by the genocidal alliance, with the Pol Pot clique as the backbone and Sihanouk and Son Sann as a smokescreen, with the aim of bringing back to power for the second time the genocidal Pol Pot regime, which is detested by the Cambodian people and mankind. Therefore, although they aspire to peace, our people have been forced to take up arms to defend national and social gains and their lives and prevent this evil regime from returning.

Along with this, the State of Cambodia's Government agreed with Sihanouk in Tokyo in early June 1990 on a voluntary cease-fire once the Supreme National Council [SNC] met for the first time. It has also repeatedly pronounced itself in favor of quickly convening the SNC to discuss the remaining issues within the council's competence, as stated in the last Paris communique, namely the implementation of a voluntary cease-fire, cessation of foreign military aid to various opposing Cambodian parties, and so on.

Everyone still clearly remembers that on 7 March 1991 the comrade chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers issued an important five-point appeal in which the issue of a voluntary cease- fire was also stressed. On the contrary, with the ambition of solving the Cambodian problem through military means

and with the continued supply of weapons and ammunition by international reactionaries, the genocidal alliance, the Polpotists in particular, have ignored the Cambodian people's insistent demand and even escalated the civil war in Cambodia by shelling villages, monasteries, schools, hospitals, and markets, causing untold suffering and destruction. These people sing about peace, but in fact they have made efforts to bring into the country weapons and ammunition to carry on the war to oppose the Cambodian people's rebirth.

However, in the past dry season, the Pol Pot genocidal alliance has not only failed to achieve its criminal goal, but suffered bitter defeats. Despite this, the Cambodian people do not aspire to solve the Cambodian problem through arms. The people and the State of Cambodia's Government continue to be faithful to the policy of national reconciliation. This is why the people and the State of Cambodia's Government have received the news of the 22 April appeal by the PICC cochairmen and the UN secretary general with joy and solemnly welcome and support this appeal.

The State of Cambodia's Government, like the Cambodian people throughout the country, considers this a major encouraging step in the process toward finding peace in Cambodia. The cease-fire, although temporary, would create an atmosphere of mutual trust that would pave the way for a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem.

Thus, with a spirit to ending the people's suffering and achieving national reconciliation and durable peace in order to build an independent, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia, our people firmly hope that the other Cambodian side and all concerned countries will certainly not reject this appeal.

Soviet Reportage on Hor Namhong USSR Visit

W12404191391

For Soviet reportage on the visit by Minister of Foreign Affairs Hor Namhong to the USSR, including reports on his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, see the International Affairs section of the 25 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

Sihanouk's Office Rejects SRV Call for Aid Halt

BK2504064691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] The office of the personal representative of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk for Cambodia and Asia rejected the statement by Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai, who appealed for the cessation of foreign aid to the Cambodian resistance factions, calling it Hanoi's deceptive trick.

The office of the personal representative exposed Hanoi's trick as follows:

First, Hanoi wants countries friendly to the Cambodian resistance movemenmt to cease aid to this movement at a time when Vietnam continues to provide aid for the Vietnamese-installed regime via the Mekong waterway and the national routes abutting on the Vietnamese border, such as Routes 1, 2, 3, and 19.

Second, the Soviet Union also continues to provide aid, firearms, and ammunition for the Vietnamese-installed regime through Kompong Som Port.

The office of the personal representative of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk for Cambodia and Asia stressed that in light of these developments, the statement made by Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai in Bangkok on Tuesday, 23 April, calling for the cessation of arms supplies to the Cambodian resistance groups is but a propaganda ploy to mislead world opinion. This statement also constitutes an obstacle to the peace process in Cambodia.

The office of the personal representative emphasized that the best means to end the war in Cambodia would be Vietnam's acceptance of the Big-Five peace plan.

Fighting Scatters 'Thousands' of Refugees

BK2504085191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0804 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Bangkok, April 25 (AFP)—Thousands of Cambodian refugees with no shelter and very limited food are scattered along the Thai border following bloody fighting in northwest Cambodia between government troops and Khmer Rouge guerrillas, relief officials said here Thursday.

The officials estimated at up to 17,000 the number of people on either side of the border while the population of a nearby refugee camp inside Thailand controlled by the Khmer Rouge has risen by over 3,000 to 14,000 since last month.

Troops of the Phnom Penh government, backed by surprise air strikes and heavy artillery bombardments, began attacks last month against the Khmer Rouge-held lucrative gem-mining area of Pailin.

Last week an official said in Phnom Penh that mining, which has been a major source of income for the powerful Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge, had stopped at Pailin with government troops entrenched just two kilometers (about one mile) from the border town.

"No one controls Pailin. It is no man's land," he added.

The relief officials, quoting Cambodian refugees, said 40 to 60 villages which were home to families of Khmer Rouge soldiers in the Pailin area and the neighbouring Samlot District, to the southeast, had come under attack from government troops.

Indications given by refugees showed many villagers had been killed as others fled towards Thailand, they said.

Earlier reports from relief workers also indicated that thousands of Thai and Burmese gem miners who had been prospecting in the ruby-rich Pailin area had crossed back into Thailand since the fighting flared up.

One relief official, who asked that he not be identified, reported that the plight of refugee groups strewn along the hilly jungle-clad border area has become even worse with heavy monsoon rains over the past few days.

While there had been no recent reports of air strikes by helicopter gunships and fixed-wing aircraft, government artillery was still shelling Khmer Rouge strongholds in northwest Cambodia's border areas, the officials said.

The Khmer Rouge, Cambodia's former Marxist ruling group and now the strongest faction in an anti-Phnom Penh guerrilla coalition, has earned millions of dollars by licensing gem miners in the Pailin area, which it seized in late 1989.

Shortly after taking control of Pailin, the Khmer Rouge also overran Samlot, which straddles a major infiltration route leading from the Thai border to southern Cambodia.

There are over 348,000 Cambodian refugees in camps along Thailand's border with Cambodia, which are run by the guerrilla factions—the Khmer Rouge and their non-communist allies loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF).

The Phnom Penh government was installed by Vietnam after it invaded Cambodia in 1978 to overthrow the Khmer Rouge, who are blamed for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people during their rule.

Commentary on Vietnamese Settlers in Prey Veng

BK2504035591 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 24 Apr 91

["News commentary": "The Vietnamese Enemy Aggressors Have Brought In Increasing Numbers of Vietnamese Settlers To Live in Peam Chor District"]

[Excerpt] The Vietnamese enemy aggressors recently intensified efforts to bring in increasing numbers of Vietnamese settlers to live in Peam Chor District, Prey Veng Province, particularly along the Tonle Toch river, from the Vietnamese border to Spean Stoeng S'at the bridge on National Route 1. Vietnamese settlers' houses have been built along these stretches. The Vietnamese have also plundered our people's fertile land in this area. [passage omitted]

VODK Reaffirms Adherence to UNSC Plan

BK2504040491 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Station commentary: "Only by Adhering to the Peace Plan of the UN Security Council's, UNSC, Five Permanent Members and the Cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia Can the Cambodian Problem Be Solved Politically, Comprehensively, and Definitively"]

[Text] The process of solving the Cambodian problem in accordance with the peace plan of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] and the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] has been deadlocked. People have clearly realized that this is because the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets and lackeys have opposed the framework document of the UNSC five permanent members and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement of the UNSC five permanent members and the PICC cochairmen. The Vietnamese aggressors have made efforts to carry out all kinds of deceitful diplomatic maneuvers to divert the solution to the Cambodian problem into the direction they want, namely to maintain the regime and puppet troops Vietnam has propped up, and through this, maintain military and civilian Vietnamese aggressor forces, including Vietnamese settlers—altogether over a million persons—to continue occupying Cambodia.

However, the international community will not allow Vietnam to destroy these documents because:

1. These documents are the result of efforts by the world, the Cambodian people, and the Cambodian national resistance forces for over the past 12 years. These are the result of a persistent and arduous struggle on the military, political, and diplomatic battlefields and in psychological warfare of the Cambodian national resistance forces and the international forces opposing the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors' occupation of Cambodia.

This result was not acquired easily. These are not just documents that this or that group uses to pressure others into accepting and legitimizing them. Everyone has spent 12 years to achieve this much. Thus, who would be willing to let Vietnam and its lackeys and puppets alter or destroy it, or do this or that at will?

2. Everyone clearly realizes that these documents are very reasonable. These documents only require that Vietnam genuinely withdraw all its aggressor troops from Cambodia under UN supervision and allow UN forces to organize and supervise free, democratic, and just elections in Cambodia. These documents do not even talk about Vietnam's crimes and Vietnam's trial by the international court for massacring the Cambodian people, or demand compensation for war damages from Vietnam. Therefore, there is nothing that would make Vietnam lose face. However, Vietnam still rejects these documents.

This clearly shows that Vietnam's real goal is not to genuinely solve the Cambodian problem politically and comprehensively. Vietnam persists in implementing the Indochinese federation strategy. The Cambodian national resistance forces have successively stated their full acceptance of these documents and are firmly standing by them, unaltered.

As for Vietnam, it has ordered its puppets and lackeys to solemnly declare that they also accept these documents, through the 10 September 1990 Jakarta joint statement and the 23 December 1990 Paris statement. However, later on, these people have gone back on their words. This shows the tricky and true nature of the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors.

No matter how hard Vietnam is trying to extricate itself, it cannot get out of this web of documents because Vietnam is completely on the accused's bench. On the one hand, it is accused of destroying the documents, and on the other, of persisting in committing aggression against and occupying Cambodia, thus constantly threatening peace, security, and stability in Southeast Asia. The harder Vietnam tries to extricate itself, the more bruised it will get. The international community and the national resistance forces continue to firmly stand by the peace plan of the UNSC five permanent members and the PICC cochairmen and continue to fight and pressure the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets and lackeys on the military battlefield, politically, diplomatically, and economically to pressure Vietnam to fully implement, unaltered, the 28 August 1990 framework document and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement.

People clearly realize that this is the only effective way to achieve a political, comprehensive, and definitive solution to the Cambodian problem with peace, security, and stability returning to Cambodia, Southeast Asia, and the Asia-Pacific region.

Indonesia

Contingent Leaves for UN Observer Mission in Iraq

BK2504052691 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0500 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] On behalf of General Try Sutrisno, commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia, Lieutenant General Awet Sara, inspector general and treasurer of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia, saw off in Jakarta the 11th Garuda contingent to join the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait observer mission. The contingent, made up of seven officers and led by Infantry Colonel Albert Inkiriwang, was sent to monitor the cease-fire on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border.

In a speech, the armed forces commander hoped that the members of the contingent as the nation's envoys would maintain the Indonesian nation's reputation and dignity in the world arena.

Dailies Hail Improved Relations With Australia

BK2504072991 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0600 GMT 25 Apr 91

[From the Press Review]

[Text] BERITA YUDHA views Australian Defense Minister Robert Ray's visit to Indonesia as a sign of further improvement in relations between the two countries. Indonesian-Australian relations have proceeded smoothly over the past few years. This is evident in reciprocal visits by senior officials of the two countries and a mutual understanding of any problems.

The daily says only a handful of Australians regard Indonesia as a militaristic country. As a matter of fact, the strengthening of the country's defense and security system is solely designed to defend the independence and sovereignty of the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia. Accordingly, BERITA YUDHA sees no reason to worry about Indonesia's military strength. In addition, Indonesia, as an ASEAN member, champions the maintenance of stability in this strategic region.

Meanwhile, KOMPAS says it is interesting to note the Australian defense minister's statement that Indonesia is not regarded as a threat, but as a country that has achieved considerable economic progress and national stability. According to the daily, the Australian people highly appreciate this because it has contributed to regional stability.

In this regard, the Australian defense minister's visit will contribute significantly to good relations between the two countries. However, it would be better if programs covering various useful areas are undertaken to expand relations between the two countries.

Editorial on Issue of Presidential Succession

BK2404165591 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 4 Apr 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Let Us Wait and See; Don't Discuss It Now"]

[Text] The issue of presidential succession has become a hot topic of discussion again after President Suharto's interview with TIME magazine on 25 March, which has in turn been widely reported by the national press.

For all of us in Indonesia, the contents of the interview and the head of state's replies to the questions asked by the magazine correspondents do not reveal anything new. What the head of state told the magazine was already widely known in Indonesia.

However, as the interview was conducted by a publication house with an international reputation and distribution network and the contents of the interview involved an issue currently being discussed by the public, the head of state's replies are interesting because they are a manifestation of his views.

On the possibility of his renomination to the presidential post, the head of state gave a diplomatic reply by saying that the issue does not depend on him, but fully depends on the People's Consultative Assembly [MPR]. The head of state went on to say that according to the 1945 Constitution, he is not even allowed to nominate himself as a presidential candidate. However, if the MPR later says: "We want Suharto again," the head of state's reply in the interview is: "It depends on my physical condition." The president reminded his interviewers that he will turn 72 in 1993. When the president was asked whether he would refuse to be renominated if he remains in good health in 1993, his reply was: "Let us wait and see in 1993; don't discuss it now".

Such remarks will obviously create more speculation because the gist of his reply is not something concrete, but constitutes something still pending [preceding word in English]—namely, people have to wait until 1993. The reply has also led to several types of intrepretations, which can be either pessimistic or optimistic.

Our national political calendar indeed shows that we will have a succession process in 1992 (for Legislative Branch membership) and in 1993 (for the Executive Branch, namely the posts of president and vice president). As for implementation of the succession process, we believe that the "what" is more important than the "who," meaning that we should begin thinking right now that who will be elected is not as important as how the succession mechanism can be implemented smoothly without creating political upheavals, which may affect our national stability.

As the would-be president will be in charge of a nation entering the second stage of its 25-Year Long-Term National Development process where the economic take-off stage is supposed to occur, it is imperative to seek the necessary criteria to lead our nation and country amidst the background of a new era and vision. In this connection, we also want to remind the people of Clause 2, Article 6 of the 1945 Constitution, which stipulates that the president and vice president are elected by the MPR through a majority vote.

The words "are elected" implies the fact that the founders of the republic and those who drafted the Constitution had anticipated the possible existence of more than one pair of presidential/vice presidental candidates. The words "are elected" does not occur if there is only one pair of presidential/vice presidential candidates.

As President Suharto also pointed out to his interviewers, theoretically speaking, it is possible to have five pairs of presidential/vice presidential candidates with the current existing number of parliamentary factions because each faction is entitled to propose its pair of candidates.

The existence of a sole presidential candidate is very good, but the election of a president and vice president through a majority vote is not something unconstitutional. As for how this issue will turn out, we can only follow the head of state's advice: "Let us wait and see in 1993; don't discuss it now".

Laos

Phoun Sipaseut Greets PRC's Qian Qichen on Ties

BK2504055491 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] On 20 April, Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign affairs minister, sent a greetings message to Qian Qichen, foreign affairs minister of the PRC, in Beijing.

The message reads: On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and the PRC, on behalf of the Lao Government and people and in my own name, I would like to extend our sincere salutations, warm congratulations, and best wishes to you, comrade, and, through you, to the PRC Government and entire fraternal Chinese people.

The establishment of Lao-Chinese diplomatic relations constituted an extremely important event in the history of Laos because it occurred at a time when Laos was arduously carrying out the national liberation struggle for national independence, freedom, and social progress. In fact, Lao-Chinese relations are not confined to only that spate of 30 years. The Lao and Chinese peoples have maintained a tradition of solidarity and mutual assistance for a long time in their attempts both to improve their living conditions and to defend each other's independence and sovereignty. I am very pleased to see that after an exchange of official friendship visits by the high-level government delegations of the two countries, the friendship relations between the Lao and Chinese peoples have been even more strengthened. Cooperation in various fields between the two countries has rapidly made numerous new steps of development and has generated practical fruits. All this has been achieved thanks to the sincerity and mutual attempts made by the two sides, thus serving to continuously restore and develop the time-honored traditional solidarity and affection. These fruits also constitute an important factor for the tasks of safeguarding and building our respective countries and a contribution to the cause of defending peace, stability, and cooperation in the world.

On this auspicious and significant occasion, once again on behalf of the Lao Government and people, I would like to express our sincere thanks and profound gratitude toward the Chinese Government and people for rendering invaluable assistance to our revolutionary cause. I firmly believe that the friendship relations, traditional solidarity, and mutual assistance between the Lao and Chinese peoples will be further strengthened with every passing day and that comprehensive cooperation between the two countries will be continuously developed.

May I sincerely wish you, comrade, and the Chinese government and people new successes in implementing the reform tasks and the resolutions adopted at the 13th CPC Congress as well as the socioeconomic plan to firmly advance along the bright path leading toward socialism.

PASASON Marks Anniversary

BK2504054891 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Editorial from 25 April PASASON: "Lao-Chinese Friendship and Cooperation Is Developing With Every Passing Day and Will Blossom Forever"]

[Text] Today, 25 April 1991, marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Laos and the PRC—spanning from 25 April 1961 to 25 April 1991. On 21 April 1961, the PRC Government extended recognition to the then Lao coalition government which was also composed of the patriotic forces. Since then [words indistinct] and direct [?assistance] from the PRC constituted a contribution to the Lao people's national liberation struggle against foreign aggressors to score brilliant success.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and the PRC have been good neighbors for a long time, sharing the same mountain ranges and rivers. Thanks to such geographical settings, the Lao and Chinese peoples have developed close relations and a sense of mutual assistance in carrying out their livelihoods. Throughout the long history of this development, the relations between Lao and Chinese peoples have become (?everlasting) fine traditional ties of friendship. After the revolutionary struggles were carried out in both countries under the leadership of the parties which upheld Marxism-Leninism as their compass, thus allowing them to share common ideals, relations between the two countries were cultivated with new quality.

Thanks to the open-door policy pursued by the Chinese party and government and to the policy of the Lao party and government to broaden cooperation with the international community, a new era has been opened for the peoples in the two countries to develop more profound relations and cooperation. For example, following the official visit to the PRC by the high-level LPDR delegation led by Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, from 8 to 12 October 1989 and the official visit to the LPDR by the PRC Government delegation led by PRC Premier Li Peng from 15 to 17 December 1990, the economic, social, and cultural relations between the two countries have been further elevated to a new degree in advancing toward a period of restoration and develoment.

Reality has proved that for more than the past year, relations between the peoples in the two countries, especially those living along the border areas, have been normalized. Such relations which have been conducted through the exchange of visits and border trading have been satisfactorily increased. During the visit to the PRC by the high-level Lao delegation and during the visit to Laos by the PRC Government delegation led by Premier Li Peng in late 1990, the two sides signed many joint agreements together—including those on mutual trading and cooperation in the economic, trade, technical, and scientific fields—as well as an agreement to resolve remaining border problems. The Chinese side has agreed to provide long-term interest-free loans of some U.S. $7 million to the LPDR for use in consolidating and building its economic foundations in several sectors. In addition, the Chinese side has given gratis aid to Laos for building a satellite television-relay station whose construction is scheduled to begin this year. Such invaluable assistance clearly shows the spirit of profound friendship and brotherliness of the fraternal Chinese Government and people toward the Lao Government and people. The Lao people highly value this assistance which is regaqrded as an extremely crucial factor to the socioeconomic development in the LPDR.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Lao-Chinese relations, we, the multiethnic Lao people, would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude toward the Chinese party, state, and people for consistently rendering assistance and support to us both during the period of national liberation struggle and the period of national defense and construciton.

May the friendship relations between Laos and China further develop and blossom forever.

Philippines

Senate Committee on Abrogating U.S. Defense Pact

HK2504033091 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 25 Apr 91 pp 1, 14

[By Tony Bergonia]

[Text] The Senate foreign relations committee recommended yesterday the issuance of a Senate resolution seeking the abrogation of the 1951 RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Mutual Defense Pact. The author of the resolution said the pact is being used to justify the American military presence in the Philippines.

Fifteen senators, led by the committee chairman, Sen. Leticia Ramos Shahani, supported the committee recommendation. Senators Rene Saguisag, Wigberto Tanada, Teofisto Guingona, Juan Ponce Enrile and the resolution's author, Orlando Mercado, endorsed the committee recommendation. Senators Heherson Alvarez, Agapito Aquino, Santanina Rasul, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Ernesto Herrera, Vicente Paterno, Jose Lina Jr., Alberto Romulo and Sotero Laurel signed the committee report with "reservations." Senators Neptali Gonzales, John Osmena, Mamintal Tamano, Ernesto Maceda and Edgardo Angara dissented.

One of the main provisions of the defense pact requires the Philippines and the U.S. to come to each other's aid in case of an external attack, Mercado said. But the resolution said the 40-year-old defense pact "does not guarantee automatic and immediate retaliation in case of external aggression against the Philippines since it requires U.S. congressional debate and approval before the U.S. government can take any action coming to the defense of the Philippines."

Enrile said the treaty's provision supposedly giving an "umbrella of protection" over the Philippines is a myth. He said the pact was drawn up to be used as basis for the continued presence of U.S. military bases here. "If the mutual defense treaty is abrogated, there will be no more basis on which the military bases agreement will be anchored," Enrile said.

His resolution also said the treaty is being used by the U.S. "in justifying its position that it is not paying rental for the use of the Philippine bases but only extends aid or assistance."

"Thus, the Filipino people are portrayed as mendicants totally dependent on American charity," Enrile said.

The five senators who disagreed with the committee recommendation said there was not enough study done on the committee level. Angara said the report should be returned to the committee for further discussions. "I dissented not on the substance of the report, but on the process," he said.

Osmena said the defense pact was necessary. "We are not living in a vacuum," he said. "We are living in a world dominated by a quadripolar alignment of forces. There is China, the Soviet Union, the U.S. and Europe. We have to align with one of them." Osmena supported the indefinite retention of the U.S. military facilities here. "The treaty is to the best of our interest," he said.

Enrile, however, said the treaty contradicted the constitutional mandate requiring the Philippines to pursue an independent foreign policy. He said the treaty also prevented the Philippines from entering into non-aggression pacts with other countries, especially the socialist countries.

Meanwhile, the sixth round of the bases talks will resume Tuesday at the Central Bank building in Manila and is expected to last until Friday, it was announced yesterday. Meneleo Hernandez, chief of the press center of the Philippine American Cooperation Talks, said the Philippine negotiators expect long-drawn discussions on the thorny issues of compensation and duration.

The Philippines has asked the U.S. for $820 million annually for the use of the bases for seven years while the U.S. offered only $360 million for 10 to 12 years. Richard Armitage, chief of the U.S. panel in the bases talks, is due to arrive in Manila on Monday afternoon, Hernandez said.

President Aquino has also said she will hold non-binding public consultations on the bases issue after the treaty has been signed and before it is submitted to the Senate for ratification.

Senate 'May' Reject U.S. Bases Treaty

HK2404120391 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] The Senate may reject a treaty in relation to the retention of the two major U.S. military bases in the country. This was stated by Senate President Jovito Salonga, who said that 11 out of a total of 23 senators are opposed to the retention of the U.S. bases in the country, while three senators said they will not support any treaty on the bases if the United States fails to pay a substantial compensation.

President Corazon Aquino, meanwhile, expressed the hope that the two countries will be able to forge a treaty regarding the extension of stay of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval facility before September. The Philippines continues to demand a seven-year extension for the U.S. bases for a rent of $825 million per year in contrast to the U.S. proposal for a 10-year lease extension with a $360 million annual package.

Talks To Resume 30 Apr

HK2504052891 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] The sixth series of formal talks between the Philippines and the United States regarding the latter's bases resume on Tuesday. The announcement came from Meneleo Hernandez, chief of the press office for the Philippine-American Cooperation Talks or PACT. U.S. chief negotiator Richard Armitage is due to arrive on Monday. Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said the formal talks will mainly be on the compensation and the length of stay of the U.S. bases in the country. The Philippines stands firm on its position, which is a seven year extension and a rent of $825 million. The United States, on the other hand, wants a 10-year extension and a rent of $520 million. [figure as heard]

Manila Softens Stand on U.S. Bases Compensation

HK2504085891 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] The Philippines has softened its stand on the bases compensation issue in a bid to conclude the negotiations concerning U.S. military bases. The report from Rey Arquiza, DZRH Unit 21:

[Begin recording] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus today hinted that the Philippines may possibly give way to the bases compensation issue to pave the way for an agreement under a treaty regarding the U.S. bases extension. Manglapus explained that the Philippines' position on compensation is no longer as inflexible as it was earlier. In fact, Manglapus added, the Philippines is

now considering the inclusion of excess military equipment in compensation for the military bases.

During past negotiations, the Philippines had firmly demanded annual payments of $825 million over a period of seven years in exchange for allowing the U.S. bases to remain in the country; this position has hindered efforts to forge a new agreement. Manglapus said that at present, the Philippines' position on the issue has become flexible in that it is now willing to include military equipment in the $825 million as a non-appropriated portion of the compensation package. Manglapus stated: In the beginning, we were not entertaining the possibility of including in the non-appropriated portion an amount that will represent excess military equipment. Now, we are. But the parameter is the same $825 million. Manglapus and U.S. chief negotiator Richard Armitage are scheduled to hold talks on Tuesday to conclude negotiations on the U.S. bases.

European Parliamentarians on Human Rights Concerns

HK2504031391 Quezon City MALAYA in English 24 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Three visiting members of the European Parliament yesterday expressed to President Aquino their concern over the human rights situation in the Philippines.

In a one-and-a-half hour meeting, the parliamentarians led by Maartie Van Putten hinted that European relations with the Philippines would depend on how well the government respects human rights here. "I think it's very important for Mrs Aquino to understand that the European parliament is taking human rights as a very hot issue to judge the relations between Europe and other countries of the world, not only Eastern Europe or Africa but also the Philippines. And I think we made that message very clear," Van Putten said.

The parliamentarians also took up with the President land reform, peace negotiations, and the debt crisis. They said they would like Europe to help the Philippines solve problems related to these issues.

When asked if they are satisfied with the conduct of peace negotiations between the government and leftist groups, they answered, "As long as there are fightings, it is not yet solved. So there is still a lot to do."

Sergio Barrera, protocol officer of Malacanang who was present in the meeting, said Purificacion Quisumbing, Philippine representative on human rights, brought to the attention of the visiting parliamentarians the problem of European pedophiles in Manila. The parliamentarians admitted this was a problem and even cited the fact that a "sex farm" was found to be operating in Europe. Charges, however, have been filed against the manager and owner of the farm, they said.

On human rights, Mrs Aquino pointed out to them that she had kept her campaign promise to free two leaders of the insurgent movement, Jose Ma Sison.

Police, Rebels Clash in Ilocos Sur, Davao

HK2404115391 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 24 Apr 91

[By Restie de Quiros]

[Text] Two separate encounters took place in the past two days. According to a report which reached Camp Crame today, the first incident occurred in barangay San Pedro, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur at about 2200 last night, when over 100 communist rebels attacked the Philippine National Police [PNP] and Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit detachment under the command of Lieutenant Rogelio Farinas. This attack resulted in the wounding of an undetermined number of Communist Party of the Philippines rebels in the one-hour gunfight. Elements from the 1st Regional Special Action Force and 147th PNP Company responded to the incident.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the police are continuing their pursuit operation of the fleeing rebels who escaped in different directions. No one was reported hurt or killed on the government side.

In Davao Oriental, it is not yet known how many New People's Army rebels were wounded after PNP elements saw stains of fresh blood in the vicinity of sitio Paypay, barangay Tagbinungan, Mati, as they pursued the fleeing communist terrorists. According to a report, elements of the 433d PNP Company were on patrol when they came across the rebels' group. No government trooper was reported wounded or killed.

Thailand

Thai-U.S. Trade Talks in Amsterdam 'Collapsed'

BK2504012191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Apr 91 p A1

[By Achara Pongwutitham and Mukdawan Sakbun]

[Excerpts] The eleventh-hour Thai-US trade talks in Amsterdam have collapsed, raising fears that Washington this Friday will place Thailand on the US priority foreign country (PFC) watchlist, which will open the way for potentially damaging retaliation against Thai exports, a concerned Commerce Minister Amaret Silaon said yesterday.

The two sides were unable to resolve their differences on a range of intellectual property rights issues, including the US demand for Bangkok's commitment to amending its laws on patent, copy-right and trademark.

Amaret quoted Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun as saying that Thailand should be prepared for the "worst-case scenario", which the minister feared would be unavoidable. Hundreds of millions, and possibly billions, of baht worth of Thai exports are at stake.

The office of the US Trade Representative is due to decide whether Thailand will be moved from the present

priority watchlist to the PFC watchlist—which gives the USTR powers under Special 301 section of US trade laws to initiate trade retaliatory action.

Amaret said he had consulted with Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin and the premier on the issue and agreed that Thailand could not give more concessions as it would be against the national interest.

The minister may shortly send a letter to USTR Ambassador Carla Hills clarifying Thailand's position and the constraints in the Amsterdam talks. [passage omitted]

Amaret said the delegations could not agree on several crucial points. For instance the Thai representative declined to make a commitment that the government would push for the passage of amendments to the patent act by Oct 1, 1991 and the revised trademark law by July 31, 1991.

Amaret said it was impossible for the administration to interfere with the legislative branch particularly on the debate and the passage of legislation.

The minister also added that it was unacceptable for Thailand to extend patent protection to new drugs that are awaiting registration in the producing countries, or allow patenting of animal and plant varieties as demanded by Washington, or limiting the state's power to force patentees to license their rights in case of non-use or national emergency.

Amaret said these demands were beyond what Thailand can accept. Moreover, the international community which is negotiating for better protection of intellectual property rights in the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotations have not yet accepted these conditions. If Thailand was to accept the US demands, its negotiating power in the Uruguay Round would be diminished.

Thailand has already agreed to protect drugs, their active ingredients, farm machinery, biotechnological inventions, food and beverage and extend the protection term to 20 years.

Although Amaret said he could not predict how the US might respond to the failure of the talks, he insisted that his ministry would consider the national interest as the most crucial point in negotiating with Washington.

"The stakes, if we are designated as a priority foreign country, are high... but no matter what happens, we will have to accept it," Amaret said. [passage omitted]

Army TV Reports Further

BK2404161391 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] There is an urgent report from the Commerce Ministry on the outcome of talks with the United States over the move to blacklist Thailand, an action even more serious than that taken under Section 301. According to the report, Thailand may have to let the United States take the action.

Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on stated at the Commerce Ministry at 1900 a while ago that the Thai delegation in charge of negotiating with the U.S. representative in Amsterdam had ended its mission and reported the results of the talks to Thailand. The delegation reported that the two sides could only reach agreement on an exchange of notes that will have a binding effect on both countries. But the two parties failed to reach agreement on other matters, especially concerning the U.S. demand for Thailand to pass a law giving protection to drug and trade patents by July. Thailand considered it an interference in the jurisdiction of the legislative branch. The United States, moreover, wanted protection to be given to all kinds of innovations, but Thailand cannot accept this since it does not comply with international practice. Thailand also cannot comply with the U.S. demand that protection of drug patents also be made retroactive.

The Commerce Ministry has reported the outcome of the negotiation to the prime minister. It is considered that Thailand may have to accept being on the U.S. black list because the U.S. demands would make Thailand's national interests suffer in the long run. The Thai Government will report its position back to the U.S. representatiove tomorrow.

[Begin Amaret recording, in progress] As I have already said, we cannot comply with any demand that constitutes an infringement on the parliament's authority, or any requirement for protection which is beyond the international norm. In this case, we will have to accept being designated a priority foreign country. Tomorrow we will send a letter to USTR Ambassador Carla Hills telling her about our position, our readiness to be designated on the list. We will inform the United States about our position, especially making clear why we cannot accede to certain demands. [end recording]

Students Protest at U.S. Embassy on Trade Issue

BK2504095391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] A group of student activists yesterday rallied in front of the US Embassy to protest against threatened retaliatory action against Thailand's alleged failure to provide adequate protection of US intellectual property rights.

The protesters from the Students' Federation of Thailand also submitted a letter addressed to US Ambassador Daniel O'Donohue expressing their dissatisfaction with the US threat. The letter said intellectual property, particularly medicines, is meant for the good of mankind and should not belong to any particular country. The letter, however, recognised the importance of intellectual property rights protection, but contended that protection should be confined to a certain level. The Thai patent law has already provided adequate protection, it claimed.

Thailand's technology is not up to international standard and making the country recognise intellectual property

rights will only hamper its development efforts, according to the letter. The students also staged a mock show portraying Uncle Sam strangling Thailand to force the latter to bow to pressure for intellectual property rights protection.

Hun Sen To Discuss Peace Process in Bangkok

BK2504020991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Apr 91 p A2

[Text] Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen is scheduled to stop over in Bangkok on his way home from Tokyo and is expected to meet senior Thai officials to discuss ways to secure tangible results from the upcoming peace talks on Cambodia in Jakarta, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

Director General of the Political Department Sarot Chawanawirat told reporters yesterday that Hun Sen was expected to be in Bangkok within the next few days and informed sources said his visit had been set for April 26 and 27.

The Foreign Ministry is arranging for the unofficial visit so that ways to move the stalled Cambodian peace process forward can be discussed.

"We will always leave our door open for all the factions in the Cambodian conflict, including Phnom Penh, and will do everything to contribute to the (process) of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia," Sarot said when asked about Thailand's position in current diplomatic efforts.

Sarot said the military had rendered its support to the meeting with Hun Sen but declined to specify who would head the Thai officials in the meeting with the Phnom Penh leader. He said that Thailand would try to persuade Hun Sen to join the peace talks in Jakarta in a spirit of compromise. He said the Jakarta talks would likely be held in the middle of next month. The meeting will bring together the 12-member Cambodian Supreme National Council, which comprises representatives of all four factions, with Indonesia and France, the co-chairmen of the Paris conference, as well as UN representatives.

Asked whether he was expecting a breakthrough at the peace talks in Jakarta, Sarot said: "I'm not certain how many such meetings will have to be held before a compromise is struck among the Cambodian factions."

During Hun Sen's visit, the ministry will also hold discussions with resistance faction representatives in Bangkok on how to bring about a peace settlement, Sarot said. He said Thailand supported the recent proposal of the Paris co-chairmen and the UN Secretary-General calling for a ceasefire in Cambodia prior to the Jakarta meeting. "(The proposal) is aimed at creating a favourable milieu for the peace talks," he said.

Narudon Discusses Cambodian Refugee Situation

BK2404152191 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Lieutenant General Narudon Detpradiyut, director of the Supreme Command Information Office, briefed a news conference at the Supreme Command Headquarters this morning on the border situation during April. He said that regarding the problem of Khmer bandits plundering Thai villagers along the Thai-Cambodian border, it has been found that the bandits belong to the Khmer resistance forces who suffer from hunger because of logistics transportation problems and the failure of their commanders to control the soldiers under the command. As a result, Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong on 2 April ordered the Navy and the Army to decisively suppress the Khmer bandits. The supreme commander also instructed them to consider cutting assistance as well as banning the soldiers of the Khmer resistance forces from visiting their wives and children at refugee camps if the commanders of the Khmer resistance forces cannot keep their subordinates under control.

In addition, Lieutenant General Narudon also reports that there are 348,003 Cambodian refugees in the refugee camps, which is a burden for Thailand in feeding them. Now, the UN border relief operation has reduced its assistance for the refugees, which will cause a rice shortage for the refugees. The reduction in assistance is one of the U.S. measures following the failure of the leaders of the four Khmer factions to settle the Cambodian conflict.

Speaks on Reduced Rice Rations

BK2504014991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Apr 91 p A1

[Text] The Thai military announced yesterday it would cut rice rations to the over 300,000 displaced Cambodians residing in camps along the Thai border to correspond with the United Nations Border Relief Operation's [UNBRO] decision to decrease humanitarian assistance as a result of dwindling international funding.

Supreme Command Spokesman Gen Narudon Detpradiyut said the military had been told by UNBRO that donor countries were dismayed by continued fighting inside Cambodia and that the United States in particular was concerned that non-lethal assistance would be rechanneled to help strengthen the communist Khmer Rouge. The United States has already cut assistance to the two non-communist resistance factions for fear that the aid might be switched to help the Khmer Rouge. Narudon said the cut in UN aid had led to a 40,000-tonne shortfall in the amount of rice to be handed out to the Cambodians this year, prompting the Supreme Command to adjust its rice rationing programme starting May 1.

Under the adjusted programme, the spokesman said the ration per head would be decreased to 3 from 3.4 kilos of rice a week. "It's time leaders of the warring Cambodian factions consider accelerating the peace process so that

displaced Cambodians can go back to their homeland before international humanitarian assistance drops any further," the spokesman said.

Narudon said there were a total of 348,103 Cambodians residing at the Khao-I-Dang, Site 2, Site 8, Site K and O-Trao camps.

Government To Cooperate With Burma in Drug Fight

BK2504022791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] Kanchanaburi—Thailand and Burma will cooperate more to fight drug trafficking along their border, the Thai ambassador to Rangoon said yesterday.

Ambassador Suraphong Posayanon was speaking to reporters after a two-day meeting of the Thai-Burmese Joint Committee, which ended yesterday. Members on both sides of the committee agreed to work together more to fight drug trafficking by the Muang Tai Army of drug king-pin Khun Sa or the United Wa State Army, Suraphong said. The ambassador did not detail how the two sides would carry out the joint suppression.

The agreement followed unconfirmed reports that the Thai and Burmese armies had decided on a joint crackdown on Khun Sa's forces. Thai military sources said the Burmese troops planned to drive Khun Sa's men close to the Thai border, where they would be intensely bombarded by Thai forces. No senior Thai or Burmese military officer have confirmed the report.

Suraphong said he believed the United States would give aid to Rangoon to help fight heroin production in Burma if the Burmese government allowed US officials to witness drug suppression in the country.

Paper on Challenges Facing Provisional Government

BK2504095391 Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai 14-20 Apr 91 p 22

[Commentary by Atthawibun Sisuworanan: "Conflicts in Foreign Policy"]

[Text] The foreign policy which the Anan Panyarachun government announced last week has three basic areas—the drive to restore the country's image to be spearheaded by the Foreign Ministry, the protection and expansion of foreign markets and foreign economic relations, and the promotion of peace and stability as the basis for economic vitality in Southeast Asia.

The policy seems to cover the basic range of its diplomacy, its strong point being its responsiveness to the prevailing situation and the maintenance of Thailand's economic drive into Indochina. However, a closer look at the policy reveals conflicts on how the three basic goals can be accomplished. The conflicts themselves could be deep enough to "cripple" the policy.

First, it hardly seems possible that Thailand will be able to restore its damaged political image while protecting its economic interests. Image restoration involves the maintenance of relations with other countries. However, the crux of the problem is its economic and trade disputes.

A political observer says Thailand will have to make more economic and trade concessions to make its major trading partners realize that the Thai military government is still useful to them. This amounts to sacrificing trade interests for good political relations.

It is unclear to what extent the above assumption will apply in the following situation. Last month the Thai Communications Ministry, after prolonged negotiations, agreed to the U.S. proposal benefiting U.S. airlines after the U.S. ambassador called on the Thai military leadership.

The Thai and U.S. Governments had been arguing over aviation rights for about two years. When the bilateral agreement expired last year, Thailand issued an ultimatum to U.S. airlines to reduce their number of flights proportionate to what has been allocated to the Thai airline. The Communications Ministry last month, however, postponed the deadline for compliance by U.S. airlines to October, allowing U.S. carriers to take advantage of the Thai airline for many more months. The Communications Ministry has not explained its action.

Moreover, the Thai Government has intensified prosecuting the violation of U.S. trademarks and patents and indicated that it would consider computer software copyright protection, despite its past opposition to it.

There are many outstanding trade disputes between Thailand and the United States. One must follow closely to see if the above assumption eventually becomes true, particularly the attempts by Thai products to enter the U.S. market and Thai import controls on products from industrialized countries, in view of the rights afforded to Thailand as a developing country to impose such controls.

In any event, this government's strong point is its policy of forging regional peace and stability, particularly its clear intention of normalizing relations with Indochinese countries.

The Thai Government is planning to strengthen relations with Laos and Vietnam, based on its 200 million-baht technical and technological assistance. Laos will receive 70-90 million baht of Thai cultural and technical assistance.

Thailand has been criticized by fellow ASEAN countries for the past civilian government's policy of transforming Indochina from a battlefield into a marketplace, although the Malaysian Government's announcement last month that it would embark on full trade with Vietnam was probably related to that policy.

The problem is how independent Thailand can conduct its Indochina policy, taking into consideration the lofty role and status it has set for itself in ASEAN. It appears that it is necessary for Thailand to make its Indochina policy

clear to fellow ASEAN countries and it is essential that the Thai leader visit those countries to clarify their doubts.

These are the challenges faced by the provisional Thai Government which has so little time in office.

Vietnam

Vo Chi Cong, Do Muoi Welcome Indian President

BK2404164591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Report on "grand ceremony" held in Hanoi on 24 April to welcome President and Mrs. Ramaswamy Venkataraman of India]

[Text] Dear friends:

At the invitation of Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State, Indian President and Mrs. Ramaswamy Venkataraman and other distinguished guests from India arrived in Hanoi today on an official friendship visit to Vietnam.

Comrade Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly, and his wife went to meet the Indian president and his party at the international airport. The official welcoming ceremony was grandly held at the Chi Linh Square in Hanoi in accordance with the most solemn protocol.

In the middle of the square, the national flags of Vietnam and India fluttered in the wind. An honor guard of the Vietnam People's Army [VPA], many Vietnamese party and state leaders, numerous ministers and vice ministers, representatives of various organs, departments, and sectors at the center and in Hanoi, along with 10 staff of the Indian Embassy, members of the diplomatic corps, and a large number of representatives of Hanoi residents, warmly welcomed the Indian president. The main streets of Hanoi were adorned with banners in Vietnamese and Hindi greeting the delegation's visit to Vietnam and wishing the friendship between the Vietnamese and Indian peoples successful development.

At 1545, the limousine carrying President and Mrs. Venkataraman, flanked by motorcycle escorts, arrived at Chi Linh Square. [report interrupted by recording of martial music]

Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State; Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Nguyen Viet Dung warmly greeted the Indian president, his wife, and party. The children of Hanoi jubilantly presented fresh, gorgeous bouquets of flowers symbolizing the hospitality of the Hanoi people. Chairman Vo Chi Cong and President Venkataraman stepped on the welcoming pedestal. The band played the Vietnamese and Indian national anthems. [recording of the national anthems of India and Vietnam played]

After the trooping of the colors, Chairman Vo Chi Cong invited President Venkataraman to inspect the VPA honor guard.

[Begin recording of VPA officer] I, Major Ngo Chi Doanh, commander of the Honor Guard of the Vietnam People's Army, report to His Excellency Venkataraman, president of the Republic of India: The Honor Guard warmly greets you on your official friendship visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. We respectfully invite you to inspect the Honor Guard. [end recording]

Amid the stirring sounds of military music, Chairman Vo Chi Cong and President Venkataraman shook hands with the senior Vietnamese Government officials, representatives of various departments and sectors at the center and in Hanoi, members of the diplomatic corps, and leaders of the Hanoi people present at the ceremony.

After the welcoming ceremony at Chi Linh Square, Chairman Vo Chi Cong and Comrade Do Muoi and Nguyen Viet Dung invited President Venkataraman into the Government Guest House, where the distinguished Indian guests will stay during their official visit to our country.

Venkatarman Urges Cambodia Peace

BK2404132691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] India and Vietnam have expressed keen desire to further consolidate and develop bilateral cooperation. The president, Mr. Venkataraman, who arrived in Hanoi today on a five-day state visit, called for closer partnership between the two countries. Speaking at a banquet given in his honor by the Vietnamese president, Mr. Venkataraman pledged India's commitment for a peaceful solution to the Cambodian problem. The president of Vietnam, Mr. Vo Chi Cong, supported India's efforts to improve relations with her neighbors and establish a zone of peace and stability in South Asia.

Pledges Continued Economic Aid

BK2504095291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] The president, Mr. Venkataraman, has pledged India's continued economic assistance to Vietnam without any strings attached. Mr. Venkataraman, who had an hour-long meeting with the Vietnamese president, Mr. Vo Chi Cong, in Hanoi today said the assistance for economic reconstruction of the country will be as selfless as it had always been. The two presidents revealed the progress made in bilateral relations and also discussed the international situation.

An official spokesman said that both the leaders underlined the need for collective self-reliance among developing countries, particularly between India and Vietnam. Describing Mr. Venkataraman's visit as (?heralding) a new era in bilateral cooperation, the Vietnamese president, Mr. Vo Chi Cong, said India can play

an important role in maintaining peace and stability in the region. The two leaders also held talks on the Cambodian problem and the continuing efforts to find a peaceful solution.

Our Southeast Asia correspondent, P.J. Nallamuthu, reports from Hanoi that the two leaders reiterated that any settlement should respect sovereignty, territorial integrity, and nonaligned status of Cambodia. They called for urgent global efforts for an overall development of Cambodia. Mr. Venkataraman met the former prime minister, Mr. Pham Van Dong, and took stock of the progress made in maintaining traditional ties between the two countries.

Earlier, in the morning, Mr. Venkataraman laid a wreath at Ho Chi Minh mausoleum. Our special correspondent, Ratan Salve, accompanying the president, reports that Mr. Venkataraman was visibly moved to see the embalmed body of the great Vietnamese hero. Later, he planted a sapling near the pagoda around the museum.

Vice Foreign Minister's Visit to Thailand Noted

BK2404160691 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] At the invitation of the Thai Foreign Ministry, a delegation of our Foreign Ministry led by Vice Minister Le Mai paid a working visit to Thailand on 22 and 23 April. The delegation was received by and had cordial talks with Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin. Minister Asa Sarasin confirmed the Thai Government's policy of continuing to develop friendly and cooperative relations with Vietnam and neighboring countries. He expressed wishes that the two countries would cooperate with other countries and make positive contributions to achieve a comprehensive, long-term solution to the Cambodia issue.

Minister Asa Sarasin happily accepted the invitation of Minister Nguyen Co Thach to visit Vietnam in the future.

Vice Minister Le Mai had two rounds of talks with the permanent secretary of the Thai Foreign Ministry, Witthaya, on the international and regional issues and issues of mutual concerns including the Cambodia issue.

Attending the talks, on the Vietnamese side were Nguyen Trung, Vietnamese ambassador to Thailand, and Tran Tien Vinh, deputy head of the Southeast Asian and South Pacific Department of the Foreign Ministry. On the Thai side were Political General Director (Sarot), Economic General Director Chavalit, and a number of Thai Foreign Ministry officials.

The talks took place in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. The two sides exchanged views and achieved unanimity on some measures aimed at strengthening the friendly and cooperative relations between the two nations including the preparation for the visits of the leaders of the two countries. The two sides basically agreed on the draft agreement on the setting up of a Joint Committee for Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation, which will be presented to the two governments for signing in the future.

Cambodian Envoy Hosts Victory Day Get-Together

BK1804081391 Hanoi VNA in English 0541 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 18—Cambodia Ambassador to Vietnam Uch Borit held a get-together here yesterday afternoon to mark the 16th anniversary of the victory day of the Cambodian People over the U.S. aggression (April 17)

It was attended by Tran Huy Chuong, assistant to the Vietnamese foreign minister, and representatives of various public offices and mass organizations.

The Cambodian diplomat highlighted the historic significance of the April 17, 1975 victory, and recalled the genocidal crimes of the Polpotists against the Cambodian people during their three-year, eight-month and 20-day rule since then.

He also highlighted the achievements in all fields of the Cambodian people after the fall of the Pol Pot genocidal regime (Jan.7, 1979). On the present situation in Cambodia, he stressed "any solution to the Cambodian question must be based on the principle of respect for the national sovereignty and self- determination right of the Cambodian people as well as the U.N. Chapter, and the prevention of the recurrence of the genocidal regime".

Article on Economic Cooperation With Malaysia

BK2004113191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Article by Thanh Hai: "Developments in Vietnam-Malaysia Economic Cooperation"]

[Text] Our state policy to renovate the economy and open wide our door of cooperation to foreign countries, along with our large work force, abundant untapped natural resources, a largely prospective market, and so on, continue to attract much attention from foreign countries, which have manifested a very supportive attitude.

Malaysia, a country considered to have achieved economic success in Southeast Asia, recently held a seminar on economic strategy in Kualar Lumpur, following a recommendation of the World Bank. The seminar was attended by Malaysian, Indonesian, South Korean, and Vietnamese delegations. The Vietnamese delegation was led by Vo Van Kiet, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir said: Malaysia believes that many Southeast Asian countries want to cooperate with Vietnam and are ready to help Vietnam

overcome this present difficult stage by all means and accelerate its economic renovation process. The Malaysian people have maintained friendly relations with Vietnam and rejoice over the new developments in Malaysia and Vietnam's relations of friendship and cooperation.

Then the Prime Minister talked about Malaysia's projects aimed at supporting the renovation policy such as rubber processing, gold and tin mining, exploitation of forest products, rice trade, kerosene, cooking oil, and so forth, and even a rubber processing factory worth US$1.5 million in the Vietnamese province of Song Be.

The aspirations of both the governments and business circles of the two countries of Malaysia and Vietnam are step by step becoming realities. Following the establishment of a Malaysian consulate in Ho Chi Minh City to become the first country of ASEAN to do so, the two delegations of the Vietnamese and Malaysian Governments began their official talks in late March 1991 in Kualar Lumpur to implement relations of cooperation and trade between the two countries in a series of domains such as tapping latex, sericulture, rice trade, crude oil, and vegetable oil. Both delegations discussed the development of banking relations, the increase of flights between Kuala Lumpur and Ho Chi Minh City, and probably the extension of flights to Hanoi.

The BBC, Austrian radio stations, and AFP reported that Malaysian Government representative Mr. Ahmed Kamil Jarpa stressed that Malaysia believed the talks would lead to greater economic cooperation between the two countries. News agencies and radio stations of other countries also quoted the director of a leading Malaysian palm and coconut oil and rubber factory as saying that the potential of Vietnam's oleaginous plants is great and the Vietnamese people's demand for vegetable oil is also great. Cooperation between the two countries will benefit both sides. Malaysia will have a large market while Vietnam will receive a technological transfer.

The Malaysian Oil Company will sell 200,000-300,000 drums of refined oil to Vietnam each year. The aforementioned new developments in Vietnam-Malaysia economic cooperation and trade are good news. They also indicate that our party-state policies of economic renovation and opening wide the door of cooperation with foreign countries are correct and have brought about ever more concrete results.

DPRK's Yi Chong-ok To Visit in 'Near Future'

BK2404160391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has issued a communique announcing that, at the invitation of the SRV Government, a delegation of the DPRK Government led by Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee and vice president of the DPRK, will pay an official friendship visit to Vietnam in the near future.

Hungarian Foreign Ministry Official Visits

BK2504020791 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Zoltan Sudy, head of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry's Department for Asia and special envoy of the Hungarian foreign minister paid a working visit to Vietnam from 30-31 April [date as heard].

The Hungarian diplomat had working sessions with acting head of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry's Department for East Europe Ha Van Thang.

The two sides exchanged views of measures to maintain and renovate the cooperation between the two countries and on a number of international issues of common concern.

Hanoi Symposium Marks Lenin's Birth Anniversary

BK2104065991 Hanoi VNA in English 0610 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 21—A symposium titled "Realistic Values in V.I. Lenin's Ideology" was held here yesterday by the Marxism-Leninism Institute on the occasion of the 121th birth anniversary of the Soviet leader (April 22).

It was attended by Dao Duy Tung, Politburo member and secretary of the party Central Committee; Dang Xuan Ky, member of the party Central Committee and director of the sponsor institute; and Trinh Ngoc Thai, deputy chairman of the International Relations Commission of the party Central Committee. Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam R.L. Khamidulin and I.E. Phiodorov, lecturer of the CPSU Central Committee, now on a visit to Vietnam and other staff members of the Soviet Embassy were on hand.

In his opening speech, Dang Xuan Ky brought out V.I. Lenin's great theoretical and practical contributions to the socialist construction. "Despite hostile forces' attempt to discredit and negate the realistic values of Leninism, we always affirm Lenin's paramount theoretical and practical contributions to the world revolution," he stressed.

The participants also heard papers delivered by the Soviet ambassador, Soviet and Vietnamese social science researchers and lecturers, reaffirming the necessity to develop Leninism in new conditions.

The same day, an exhibition entitled "V.I. Lenin-October Revolution" was opened in Hanoi under the joint auspices of the Ho Chi Minh Museum and the Central V.I. Lenin Museum of the Soviet Union. Vu Oanh, secretary of the party Central Committee, and Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam R.L. Khamidulin were present at the opening ceremony. Also on this occasion, a meeting was organized in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday to mark the anniversary.

Meeting Marks Cuba's Giron Victory Anniversary

BK2404125791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] On 19 April, the Union of Vietnam-Cuba Organizations for Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship held a get-together to mark the 30th anniversary of the Giron victory—19 April 1961-19 April 1991.

Attending the get-together were Comrade Nguyen Van Tao, deputy director of the party Central Committee International Department; Comrade Ly Van Sau, vice president of the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association; and representatives from many mass organizations at the central level and branches or chapters of the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association. Also present were Ambassador Armendo Saucedo Yero and many cadres from the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in Vietnam.

In an atmosphere of cordiality and fraternal friendship, the Cuban guests and Vietnamese representatives recalled the laudable and sensational events and dauntless revolutionary will of the heroic Cuban people in the historic 19 April victory—a victory that will remain forever the indestructible faith and enormous source of encouragement of the Cuban people in their struggle for national construction and defense.

U.S. Red Cross Official's Comments on Ties Noted

BK2504075491 Hanoi VNA in English 0552 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25—Speaking in an interview with SAIGON GIAI PHONG daily before leaving for home Robert Jursnick, chief executive officer of the American Red Cross (ARC) St. Paul area chapter and head of the ARC delegation to visit Vietnam, expressed his hope that relations between Vietnam and the United States will improve soon.

This was the first ARC visit to Vietnam since 1975. The five- member delegation stayed from April 13 to 24.

According to R.L. Jursnick, the first meeting between officials of the Vietnam Red Cross (VRC) and the ARC to discuss [passage indistinct] was held in Singapore in 1988. Since then, the ARC has helped Vietnam overcome consequences of natural calamities.

At the invitation of the ARC, a delegation of the VRC will visit the United States in June this year. R.L. Jursnick remarked that relations between the ARC and the VRC "are having solid steps". He said : "We are impressed by the ability of the Vietnamese medical branch to provide services to their people using our equipment". Vietnam is doing well its task of caring for the disabled, homeless people and vagabonds in spite of lots of difficulties. This problem is a great concern of many organizations in the United States".

Luong Van Vu, a Vietnamese American, in charge of the Search Office of the ARC, said "The search for missing relatives and families in Indochina has obtained more satisfactory results than in other countries in the region. He said his office each day received from 70 to 90 requests for search of relatives missing in the war, in calamities or for other reasons. In the implementation of our task, we have cooperated with Red Cross organization of many countries, including that of Vietnam. We usually obtained 30 percent success, but in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, our success reached 50 per cent".

On relations between the ARC and the VRC Mrs Mary Lou McCuchenon, head of the Relief Office of the ARC, said: "There has been progress since our first meeting in Singapore in 1988". She expressed the hope that after this Vietnam visit of the ARC, the relations of the two organizations will be further developed. On the issues, Mrs Sally Paul, director of the International Services Committee of the ARC St. Paul area chapter said: "At present, there is the embargo of the U.S. Government against Vietnam. However, humanitarian activities undertaken by the ARC and the VRC belong to non-governmental areas. Therefore, I think that nothing can hinder the development of our relations".

Economic Cooperation Agreement With Sweden Signed

BK2404124991 Hanoi VNA in English 0604 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 24—Vietnam and Sweden have signed in Hanoi a cooperation agreement on economic management for the 1991-92 fiscal year.

Signatories were Le Dang Doanh, deputy director of the Institute of Economic Management Research, and Mrs. Birgitta Johansson, Swedish ambassadress.

Under the document, the Swedish Government will grant Vietnam with financial aid and expertise in macroeconomic management and the training of economic managers. At the signing ceremony, the Swedish ambassadress described the agreement as a manifestation of her government's support to Vietnam's renovation process.

Article Details Swedish Aid, Cooperation

BK2104095191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Article by John Sankren, adviser to the Swedish ambassador to Vietnam on cooperation and development with Vietnam; date, place not given—read by announcer in Vietnamese]

[Text] The cooperation between Vietnam and Sweden did not just happen recently, but had started under the form of humanitarian aid when Vietnam was still at war.

From then, the two countries prepared for the long-term cooperation later on. As a result of the preparatory process, the real cooperation was formed. The two countries signed an agreement on Swedish assistance to

Vietnam to build the Bai Lang Pulp Plant in Vinh Phu, a children's hospital in Hanoi, and the Uong Bi General Hospital in Quang Ninh.

After completing the above-mentioned projects, in the beginning of the 1980s, Vietnam and Sweden concentrated on putting those projects into operation. The funds remaining after finishing those projects were used to equip some other plants, including the Thu Duc electricity power station in South Vietnam.

In 1989, under the agreement of the Swedish and Vietnamese Governments, the aim of the two countries' cooperation was concentrated on stabilizing the economy and enhancing the renovation process. One-third of 300 million Swedish kronors, which is equivalent to 55 million U.S. dollars, was used to build the responsible offices relating to the renovation process.

The agreement on Swedish assistance to Vietnam to perfect the tax system which was signed recently is a good example. Other agreements on training management cadres in the banking, industrial, and economic sectors have been prepared. The Swedish aid has also been used to develop agriculture and health services under the renovation direction.

The Swedish International Development Agency of the Swedish Government in the past has been responsible for planning and implementing most of the bilateral cooperative projects between Vietnam and Sweden. Recently, the Swedish Government suggested increasing the yearly aid to Vietnam from 300 to 325 million kronor. This shows that the Swedish Government highly values the renovation process in Vietnam and the results of Vietnamese-Swedish cooperation.

State Planning Official on Australia Trade Visit

BK2004153791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Statement by Ho Huan Nghiem, vice chairman of the State Planning Committee, on his recent visit to Australia to attend a meeting of the SRV-Australia Joint Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation; date, place not given—recorded]

[Summary] In early March, our state economic delegation visited Australia and attended the first meeting of the SRV-Australia Joint Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation.

The two sides were pleased to realize that the economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries has been going very well. "The trading volume between the two countries reached more than 30 million U.S. dollars in 1990. Vietnamese companies and their Australian counterparts have signed 14 business contracts in the fields of oil research and exploitation, postal and telecommunication service, timber processing, and breeding of and fishing for sea products. The two sides agreed that prospects for further developing the trading and cooperative relations between the two countries remain.

"Following the agreement on economic and commercial cooperation which was signed in June 1990 in Hanoi, the two countries signed an agreement on investment guarantees in order to enhance cooperation. The two sides also agreed to positively sign more agreements at the government level."

During the visit to Australia, our delegation had some beneficial contacts with Australian Government officials and businessmen. They paid particular attention to the renovation, achievements, and economic policies of our government. They all expressed the wish to strengthen and develop the friendship and cooperative relations with our country to broaden the trading and business cooperation with Vietnam. There are many fields in which economic and commercial relations can be established between the two countries.

Australia is rich in bauxite, color metals, coal exploitation, agricultural production, agricultural product processing, stock breeding, machine production, transport and telecommunication services, and so forth. "Australia also needs to import some of our goods such as sea products; some agricultural products such as coffee, peanuts, and pepper; timber; clothes; and some other goods.

"The two sides agreed to strengthen contacts of the two countries' businessmen and specialists to continue to find more fields in which practical cooperation can be implemented. The most important result achieved by the delegation's visit is the strengthening of mutual understanding concerning each other's capacities and needs, the things each side has and the things each side needs, and the policies and ways of doing business in each country. Another good result from this Australia visit is the confirmation that there are more potentials to broaden the economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries. I believe that the Australia visit of the Vietnamese economic and commercial delegation will positively contribute to the strengthening of friendship and neighboring relations and the cooperative relations between Vietnam and Australia."

Report on 5th All-Army Congress Opening

BK2404134191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Report by station correspondent Dang Van Nhon on opening of Fifth All-Army Party Organization Congress of Delegates in Hanoi on 23 April]

[Text] Dear comrades and friends:

Implementing the directive of the party Central Committee Secretariat, from the beginning of November 1990 to early April 1991, the party organizations in the Army organized for party members, cadres, combatants,

workers, and civil servants to study, discuss, and make suggestions to the draft documents to be presented to the Seventh National Party Congress. During that period, these party organizations and those directly subordinate to the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee also held first-round congresses at the grass roots and next-highest level. Today, amid the ebullient atmosphere of the entire country advancing toward the seventh party congress, the Fifth All-Army Party Organization Congress of Delegates solemnly opened in Hanoi, our beloved Hanoi. [report interrupted by recording of the national anthem and Internationale]

More than 300 delegates attended the congress. They comprised generals, lower-ranking officers, workers, civil servants, scientists, and intellectuals in the Army who represented the various army corps, military regions, armed branches and services, institutes and schools, army units in charge of economic building, organs of strategic studies, and other special units. Despite their different positions and duties, all delegates exuded experience gained in the grueling trials of war throughout the past few decades. The shiny medals on their chests testified to the blood, sweat, and tears each contributed to the country's noble cause of fighting and building. Every one of them showed absolute confidence in the party leadership and steadfastness to the path chosen by the party and Uncle Ho—that is, the path to socialist construction.

Amid the solemn and buoyant atmosphere of the inaugural ceremony, the all-Army party organization congress was extremely proud of and enthusastic about having the opportunity to welcome Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the party Central Committee, who attended and addressed the congress.

[Begin Nguyen Van Linh recording] My affectionate greetings and wishes for good health to all the comrades present at this congress. [applause] Your election as delegates to the all-Army congress of delegates is both an honor and a weighty responsibility for each of you. I hope that you will bring into full play your sense of responsibility and constructive spirit, make good suggestions of quality to the various documents of the seventh national party congress, and elect a worthy delegation to the seventh party congress. Recently, you fruitfully held congresses at the grass roots and next-highest level. Those congresses categorically confirmed that our path is the socialist path; asserted the dictatorship of the proletariat and the party leadership; affirmed that it is essential to introduce the political platform at this juncture; criticized political pluralism, multi-partyism, and opposition parties; and frankly debated and criticized erroneous and deviant theses that ran counter to the party's lines and viewpoints.

You have showed a high unanimity with our party's renovation policy and line, and expressed virtually identical views with the issues raised in the draft documents to be presented to the seventh party congress. I warmly welcome the political and ideological steadfastness of large sections of cadres and party members in the Army. You are worthy of the traditions of Uncle Ho's soldiers and of being an effective tool and reliable prop of our party and people. [applause] [end recording]

After greeting the congress, the general secretary dealt with the significance of the upcoming seventh party congress. He suggested some issues that need to be discussed at the current all-Army party congress. In conclusion, he spoke about the tasks of the Army delegation to the seventh national party congress.

Before the congress began to discuss and make suggestions to the draft documents of the seventh party congress, Comrade Nguyen Quyet, member of the Party Central Committee Secretariat and the Standing Committee of the Party Central Committee Military Commission, read a report on the situation and results of the organization of party members and the masses to contribute ideas to the draft documents of the seventh party congress, and on the holding of first-round party congresses at various levels. Comrade Nguyen Quyet said:

[Begin Nguyen Quyet recording] Implementing the directive of the party Central Committee Secretariat, between the beginning of November 1990 and early April 1991, the Army party organization seriously and urgently organized party members and the masses to study and make suggestions to the various draft documents of the seventh party congress and completed first-round party congresses from the grass-roots level up to the level of party organizations directly subordinate to the party Central Committee Military Commission. The Army party organizations at all levels deeply realized the special importance of the seventh national party congress, a congress that will make decisions on extremely important issues regarding the destiny of the country against the background of utterly complex developments in the domestic situation as well as the general situation around the world, a fact that will set this congress apart from the many previous ones. For this reason, the Army party organization took the initiative to positively and resolutely overcome difficulties and exerted leadership in implementing the regular tasks while concentrating their efforts on organizing party members and the masses to study and make suggestions to the party Central Committee's draft documents and satisfactorily preparing for and holding party organization congresses at each level.

A detailed synthesis of the concrete suggestions made to each draft document was compiled and forwarded to the Central Committee organs concerned and the delegations to this all-Army party organization congress. By early April 1991, all the Army party organizations had held congresses at three levels—the grass roots, the next highest level, and the level of party organizations directly subordinate to the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee. Generally speaking, these congresses were carefully prepared and achieved fine results.

They really brought democracy into full play and benefited from the concentrated intellect of the party organizations. Nearly all the delegates at the congresses upheld their sense of responsibility, spoke frankly and constructively, and engaged in lively debate to determine right from wrong. Many suggestions were painstakingly prepared, expressed clear political views, and contained incisive arguments. All suggestions made by party members and the masses to the draft documents—including those voicing unanimity with, adding supplements to, or expressing differences with the draft documents—whether they belonged to the majority or the minority, especially were seriously collected, studied, and discussed by party organizations of each level, especially in the cases of suggestions concerning the issues of principles and viewpoints.

Regarding the elections of delegates to the upper-level congresses, most party congresses at various levels needed only to hold a vote to elect the required number of delegates while ensuring that all standard and quality requirements were met, and that set formalities and principles were strictly observed. Thus, they succeeded in choosing as their delegates those comrades who typified the intellect of their party organizations. The majority of leading and commanding cadres of units, sector heads, and the comrades recommended by the Standing Committee of the Military Commission of the party Central Committee to stand for elections at lower-level congresses were elected with large numbers of votes. [end recording]

The report read by Comrade Nguyen Quyet was divided into three major parts. The first presented an appraisal of the overall results and the four prominent features of the study, discussion, and suggestion-making process of party members, cadres, and combatants and of the first-round party congresses at all levels. The report concluded the first part by stressing that organization of the study of contribution of ideas to the party's draft documents and the recent holding of first-round party congresses at various levels were really a broad political activity drive in the entire army. The drive was closely linked with, and brought into play the results of, the consolidation of party organizations, the education and training of party members, and the building of units. Stepped up since 1990, it has actively contributed to raising the political standard of cadres and party members and their understanding of the party's lines and viewpoints and the reality of revolution. It has also enhanced the party characteristics and the sense of principle of party members, cadres, and party organizations; strengthened solidarity and unity of views and action; consolidated confidence; and promoted the successful implementation of the tasks of the entire Army and each unit.

The grass-roots party congresses clearly showed the political standard and ability and the positive attitude of cadres, party members, combatants, and party organizations in our Army toward the party leadership. They also reflected the class nature and fine tradition of the Army, the solidarity and unity of our Army party organizations in the new period, and demonstrated the responsibility of the Army and party organizations for the success of the upcoming seventh national party congress.

In its second part, the report presented the results of the discussions on the draft documents of the seventh party congress. They consisted of the unanimity expressed with the issues raised in the party Central Committee's draft documents; further clarifications of and supplements to the said issues; and some views that differed from the draft documents.

The third part of the report contained issues suggested for discussion at the all-Army party congress.

In conclusion, Comrade Nguyen Quyet said:

[Begin Nguyen Quyet recording] Through the study and contribution of ideas to the various draft documents of the party Central Committee, we have the important task of making worthy contributions to the success of the seventh party congress. I would like to suggest that you, comrade delegates, with your renovative spirit and practical, comprehensive, revolutionary, and scientific viewpoints, with your high sense of responsibility, and by developing democracy, will discuss and make numerous profound suggestions to the contents of the draft documents of the seventh party congress, and will elect a delegation that typifies the Army party organization to attend the seventh national party congress. [end recording]

At the opening ceremony, Comrade Doan Khue, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and member of the Standing Committee of the party Central Committee Military Commission, read a report on implementation of the national defense tasks. After that, the congress began its discussions of the draft documents of the seventh party congress.

Nguyen Thanh Binh Attends Party Congress

BK2404154591 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] In four days from 2 to 5 April, the party committee of Block One of the Central Organizations held its first-round party congress. There were 251 representatives of 2,546 party members from 225 primary party organizations that belong to 15 party committees of the central organizations. Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh, standing member of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee, attended the congress.

Block One of the Central Organizations mostly consists of staff, research, management service organizations of the party Central Committee, the National Assembly, the Council of State, and the Council of Ministers.

With attitudes of responsibility, 95 percent of party members of the block party committees from the grass-roots party congresses contributed opinions to the

party's five draft documents, which will be presented at the coming seventh party congress.

All opinions unanimously agreed on the socialist aim, the party leadership, the great achievements of Vietnam's revolution, and the initial, important successes of the renovation process.

Some of the opinions expressed directly suggested a more appropriate evaluation of the achievements as well as shortcomings and problems of the party in the renovation undertaking since the sixth party congress, and to point out the responsibility of every echelon, especially at the central level.

Many of the opinions expressed agreed about the direction and viewpoints of the renovation policy in economic management, in party correction, and in renovation of the party leadership. Many opinions gave practical suggestions to the charters and articles of the draft documents.

In the process of discussion, many comrades had carefully studied beforehand and positively taken part in the discussions and analyses at the congress. Many comrades also took the opportunity to criticize incorrect allegations against party policies and against socialism by opportunist and hostile elements who use the Western media to influence our country and our party's internal affairs.

Generally, the atmosphere of the discussion on the party draft documents from the grass roots to the block congress was enthusiastic, responsible, and of good quality.

The congress also elected 29 representatives to attend the seventh national party congress.

Nguyen Van Linh Visits Lang Son Province

BK2304072491 Hanoi VNA in English 0605 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 23—Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh on April 18-20 made a fact-finding tour of the northern border province of Lang Son, more than 200 km north of Hanoi.

Lang Son is one of the few border provinces which have achieved notable successes in the renovation of agricultural management. Its food output in 1990 increased 10,000 [metric] tons over 1987. The people's livelihood has also benefited from an increasing border trade with the southern provinces of China. In a talk with the local population, General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh welcomed the expansion of the multi-sector economy and border trade in Lang Son. But he cautioned against smuggling, tax evasion and other possible negative aspects in the border trade.

Foreign Companies Register for Oil Refinery Bid

BK2004080691 Hanoi VNA in English 0619 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 20—So far, 18 companies from France, Japan, Britain, Holland, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland, South Korea have registered their tenders for the construction of an oil refinery in Vietnam.

Those companies have sent their representatives to Vietnam to study the situation and submit their construction plans.

A number of companies, initially selected for the work, are gathering data for their schemes, the best of which will be chosen later by Vietnam.

100 Foreign Firms To Participate in Trade Fair

BK2404144791 Hanoi VNA in English 1238 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 24—Up to now 200 Vietnamese economic units and 100 foreign companies have registered to participate in the Quang Trung fair to be held in Ho Chi Minh City on April 28.

The fair will highlight Vietnam's economic achievements over the past 18 years since its reunification, and possible ties for foreign investment.

For their part, the foreign companies will in the main display equipment and machines for agricultural, forestry and fishery development. During the fair, ten seminars will be held to introduce the country's economic potentials.